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M.C., M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MAIDSTONE

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR

1953

ON

THE HEALTH OF THE

MAIDSTONE RURAL DISTRICT

BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

P. Jacob Gaffikin, M.C.,

M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

MAIDSTONE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Health Committee

Chairman.

Sir George W. Heron, C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O.

Members

Mr. E.A. Abery	Major De S.H. Lewis-Barned
Mr. H.W. Busbridge	Mr. E.L. Manwaring
Mr. W. Day	Mr. C.S. Smith
Mr. B.R. Dufton	Captain L.M. Stopford
Mrs S. Hubbard	Mr. E.W. Tassell
	Mr. W. Tipples

Public Health Officers of the Rural District Council

Medical Officer of Health,

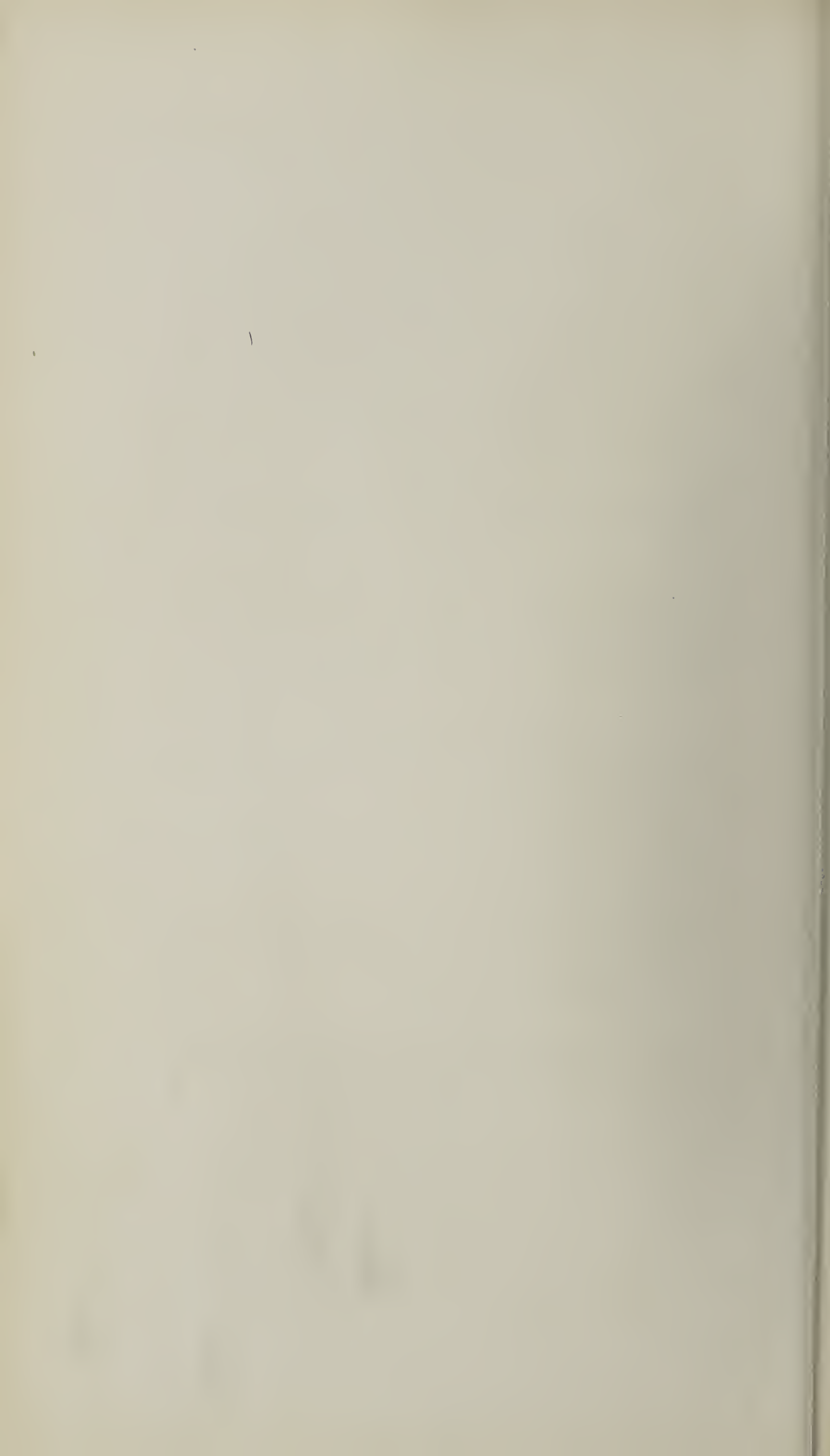
P. Jacob Gaffikin, M.C., M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector,

D.T. Sedgewick, A.R. San. I., M.S.I.A.
Sanitary Inspectors' Certificate: Certificate
of Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspector,

K.T. Jolley, M.R. San. I., M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E.
Sanitary Inspectors' Certificate: Certificate
of Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.



MAIDSTONE RURAL DISTRICT

To:- The Chairman & Members of the Maidstone Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the Honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Maidstone Rural District, for the Year ended December 31st., 1953.

There are still many directions in which active measures are needed for the advancement of the public health in the Rural District. Water supplies are still unsatisfactory in some areas, ~~sewers~~ and the necessary works for sewage disposal are needed in growing areas, if the problem of cess-pit emptying and the disposal of cess-pit contents is not to prove insurmountable. The re-conditioning or replacement of unfit houses and the inspection and supervision of food and food premises add greatly to the work of your Officers, which will be further increased by the return to the use of private licenced slaughter-houses. Agriculture is the main industry of the Rural District, but the drift of the rural population to the towns will not be stayed unless the standard of life in country districts can be approximated to that of the urban workers.

During 1953, the health of the Rural District has been good and we have been happily free from any serious epidemic. Scarlet fever cases numbered 36 and this disease has become so mild in character that admission to hospital is now the exception rather than the rule. Measles showed a heavy incidence, 410 cases being reported but happily none was fatal and there were few complicated cases. The Rural District was, I rejoice to say, free from any case of poliomyelitis during 1953 and again I have the satisfaction of recording the maternal death-rate as "Nil".

Hop-pickers encampments have been improved and the inspecting Medical Officer from the Ministry of Health expressed his satisfaction with the camps which he visited. In common with other Rural Districts, there is anxiety about the difficulties which may arise from the growing popularity of camping and caravan holidays. While we should all wish to welcome the townsfolk to a share in the beauty of the countryside, there is a danger that collections of temporary and more-or-less moveable dwellings can degenerate into rural slums.

May I express my thanks to the Rural District Council for the help and encouragement I have received during the year and to your Officers for their co-operation and assistance, and,

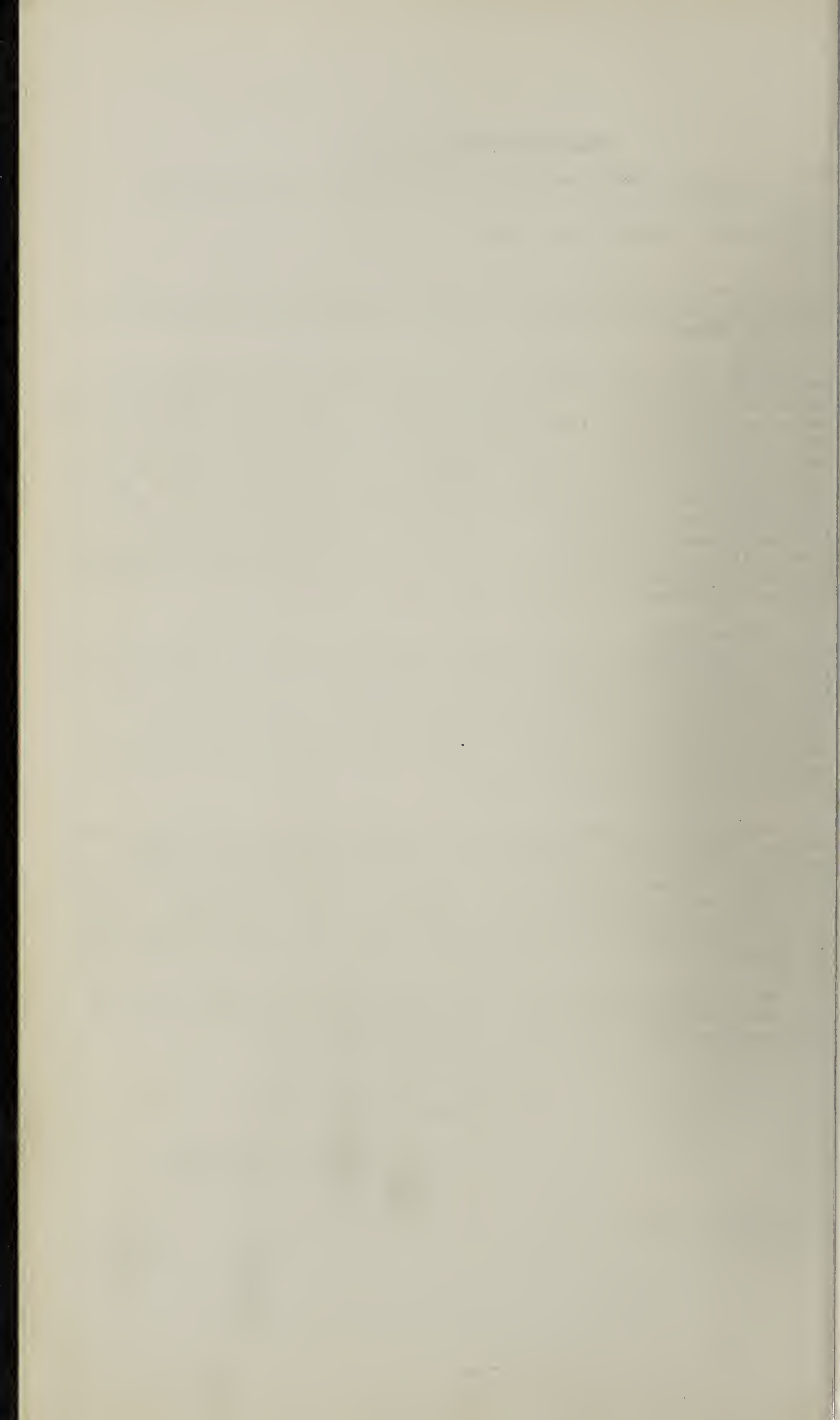
I have the Honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant

P. Jacob Gaffikin,
Medical Officer of Health

13, Tonbridge Road,
Maidstone.

September 6th., 1954.



Section "A"

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area	34,709
Estimated Resident Population 1953	18,300
Number of inhabited houses, (according to rate books) end of 1953	5,670
Rateable Value	£101,827
Sum represented by a penny rate	£410

Extracts from Vital Statistics

		Total	Male	Female
Live Births	Legitimate	255	146	109
	Illegitimate	19	9	10
	Total	274	155	119
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	Crude	14.97	Corrected	15.86
Still births		2		
Rate per 1,000 births (live and still)		7.24		

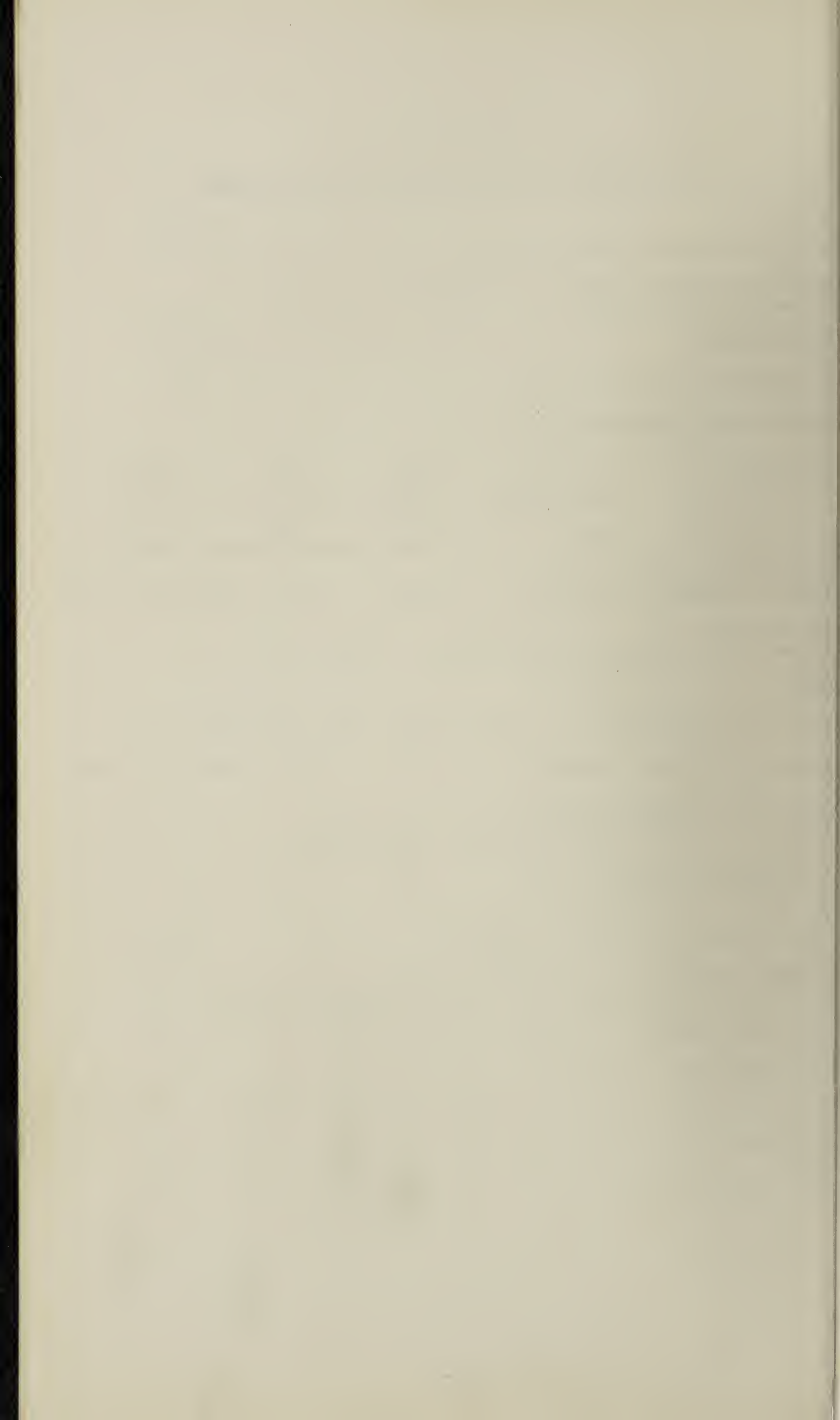
Deaths

Deaths from all causes	Total	339	Male	175	Female	164
Death rate per 1,000 Population	Crude	18.52	Corrected	14.44		

Deaths from puerperal causes.
(Headings of the Registrar-General's Short List)
Rate per 1,000 total births.

29 Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
30 Other puerperal causes	Nil

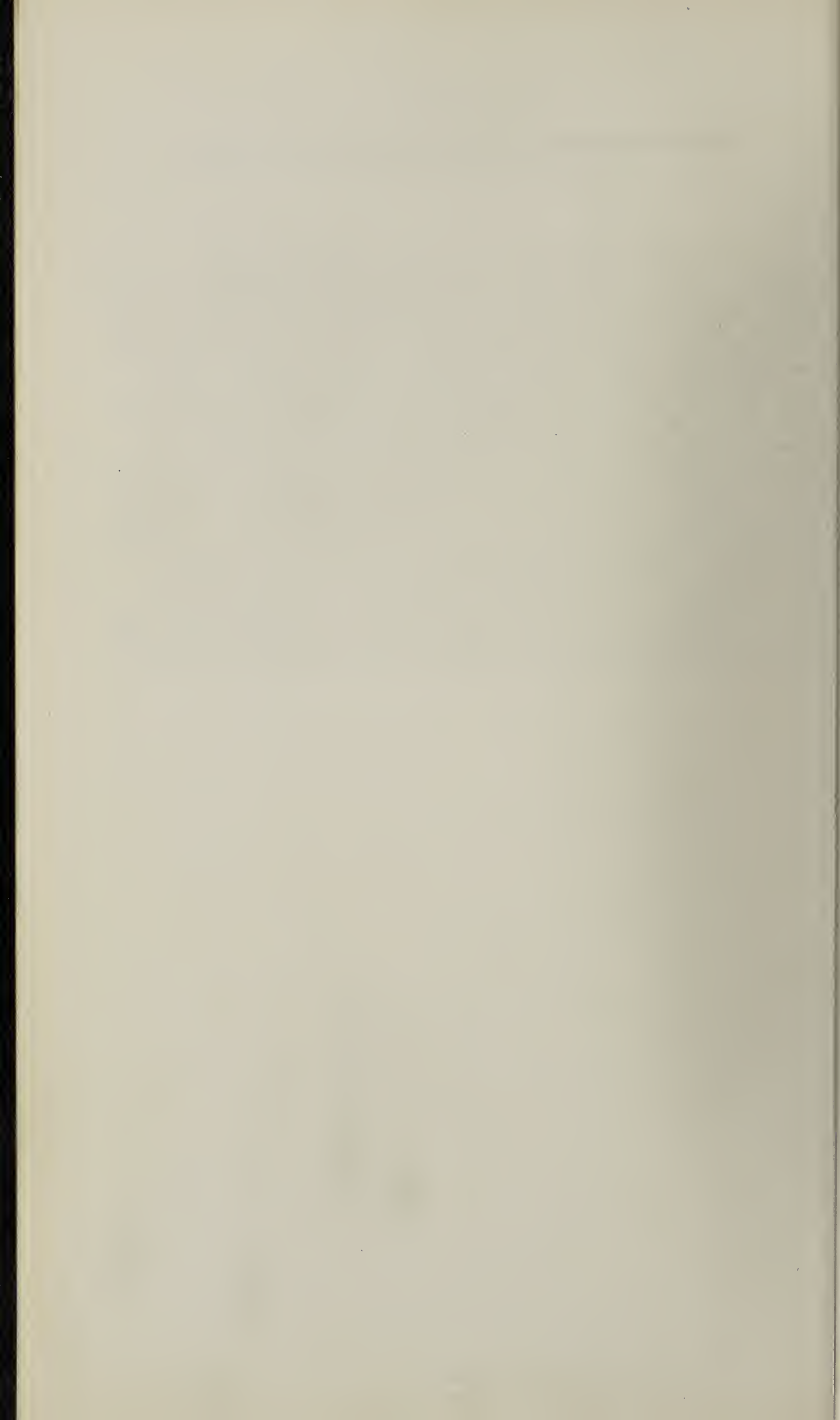
Death Rate of infants under 1 year of age	
All infants, per 1,000 live births	29.19
Legitimate infants, per 1,000 live births	31.37
Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 live illegitimate births	Nil
Deaths from measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	43
Cancer Death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	2.34
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea	Nil



Section "B".

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

In the Rural District, the various services, such as clinics, welfare centres, the school medical and dental services, and the midwifery service, are the responsibility of the County Council, while the hospitals in the area are now administered by the Mid-Kent Hospital Management Committee. I am still of the opinion that for the conduct of health services, which require personal and individual knowledge and contact, remote control is undesirable and with so large an area as a County and so remote a body as a County Council, there is an inescapable tendency for the tending of the administrative machine to be regarded as equalling in importance the benefitting of the citizen. For personal health problems, the ideal agency is the efficient and well-trusted family practitioner: for environmental problems, also, the local Council and its Officers provide the local and personal knowledge which can be so vitally important. General direction and policy might well remain with the County Councils and general principles and guidance be laid down by central government, but for the day-to-day routine administration of the services, I would urge that delegation of such functions to the smaller Authorities, where necessary in combination into groups as desirable for geographical or economic reasons, would stimulate local interest and preserve real democracy in local government.



Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water Supply. In the Maidstone Rural District, the main water supplies are from the sources and bore holes belonging to the Water Companies, and these supplies, though hard water, as is to be expected in a chalk country, are of consistently high quality and bacteriological purity. During the year, samples have been taken by your Officers and chemical analyses and bacteriological examinations have been made and the results have been consistently satisfactory. The Water Companies also supply the areas of the other Authorities which I serve and I get the reports of the examination of a large number of samples, in this way. As an additional safeguard, the water is subjected to chemical treatment so that a high standard of purity is secured. All the camps for hop-pickers in your District have now a supply of water from the mains.

While I can regard the supplies from the Companies' sources as very satisfactory, - and in the larger part of your Rural District, there is a piped supply, - other parts are still dependent on wells and springs which cannot be regarded as satisfactory supplies. In my last report I made mention of the Hunton Hilltop area, where samples taken from 7 wells showed that all were polluted and I am glad that approval has now been given to the Council's proposals for taking a piped mains supply to this area. Of 13 samples taken from wells during the year, only 2 were satisfactory: of the remaining 11, 7 were the wells in Hunton Hilltop area, 2 other properties which had depended on unsatisfactory wells are now supplied from the main and one sample was from a stream used by caravan dwellers whose camp site has been moved to enable them to obtain mains water.

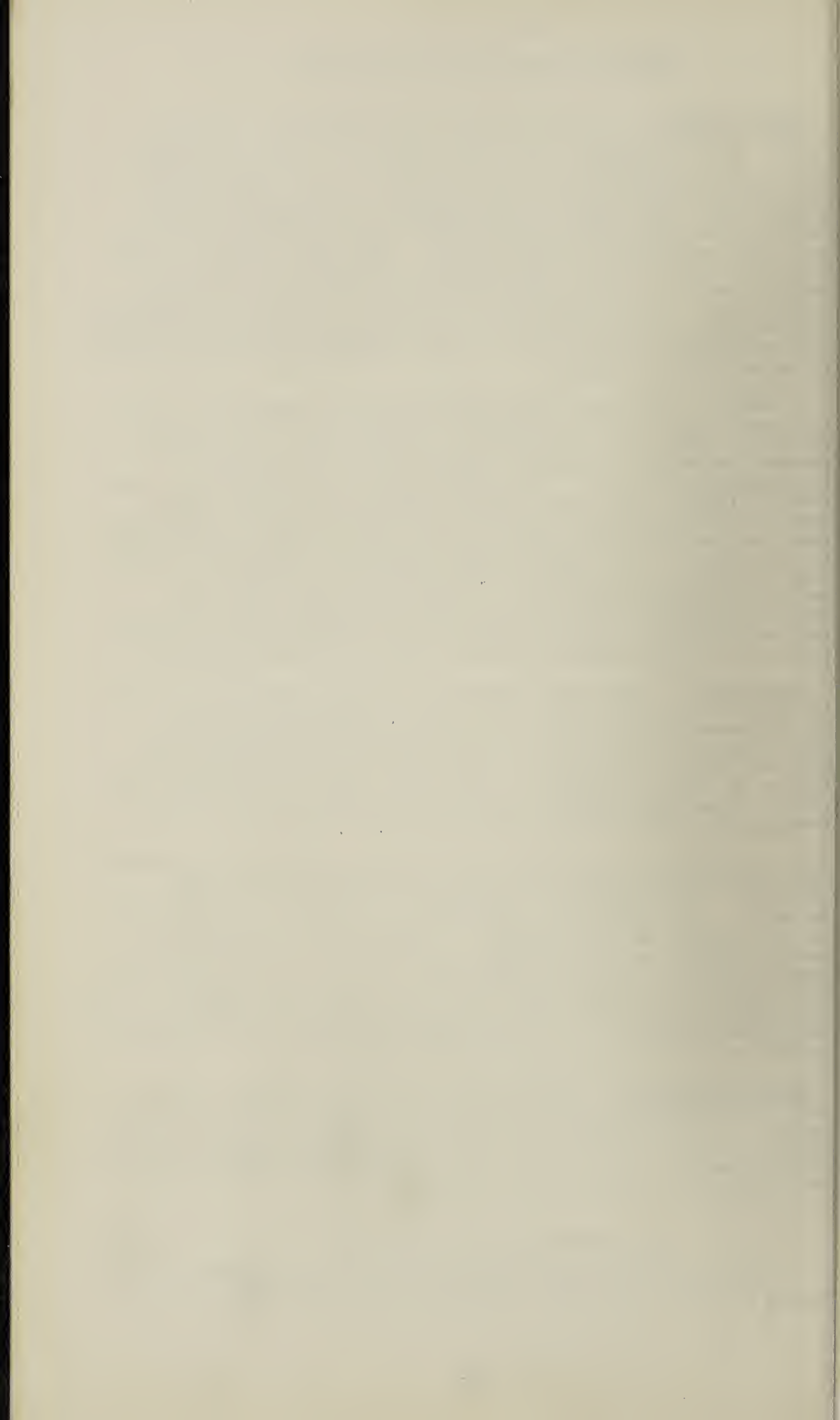
Scavenging. The refuse collection service in the area, which is under the charge of the Surveyor, has continued to work satisfactorily, and salvage of waste materials is still worth undertaking, if only for the improvement in the state of the ditches, woods and copses. But we are still suffering from the habits of the litter-fiend and his traces can be noted only too often, after every holiday, and in every beauty spot, notwithstanding the exhortations in the Press and on the air.

The larger number of the houses in the district are equipped with water-closets discharging into cess-pits or with pail closets. The emptying of cess-pits is controlled by the Surveyor. In some cases, difficulty has arisen in the disposal of the contents of pail closets. Extensions of sewers and sewage disposal works have been carried out and the scheme for the provision of sewage disposal, for the area around Teston and Watlington, in conjunction with the Malling Rural District Council has been resuscitated: this is an area which is growing in population and it is to be hoped that the scheme will be advanced beyond the preliminary stages before long.

Rivers & Streams. Pollution of rivers and streams in the Rural District in some places still exists and is becoming more urgent. Extension of main drainage and adequate means of sewage purification, with the securing of satisfactory effluents from existing works, will, I hope, result in an improvement and protect the rivers and streams in the County.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

Your Chief Sanitary Inspector has furnished the following Report on the work of his Department during the year:-



SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

HOUSING

Houses inspected.....	189
Re-visits to houses.....	347
Drains inspected.....	616
Re-visits to drains.....	634
Overcrowding.....	11
Visits under Housing Acts.....	575

FOOD AND WATER

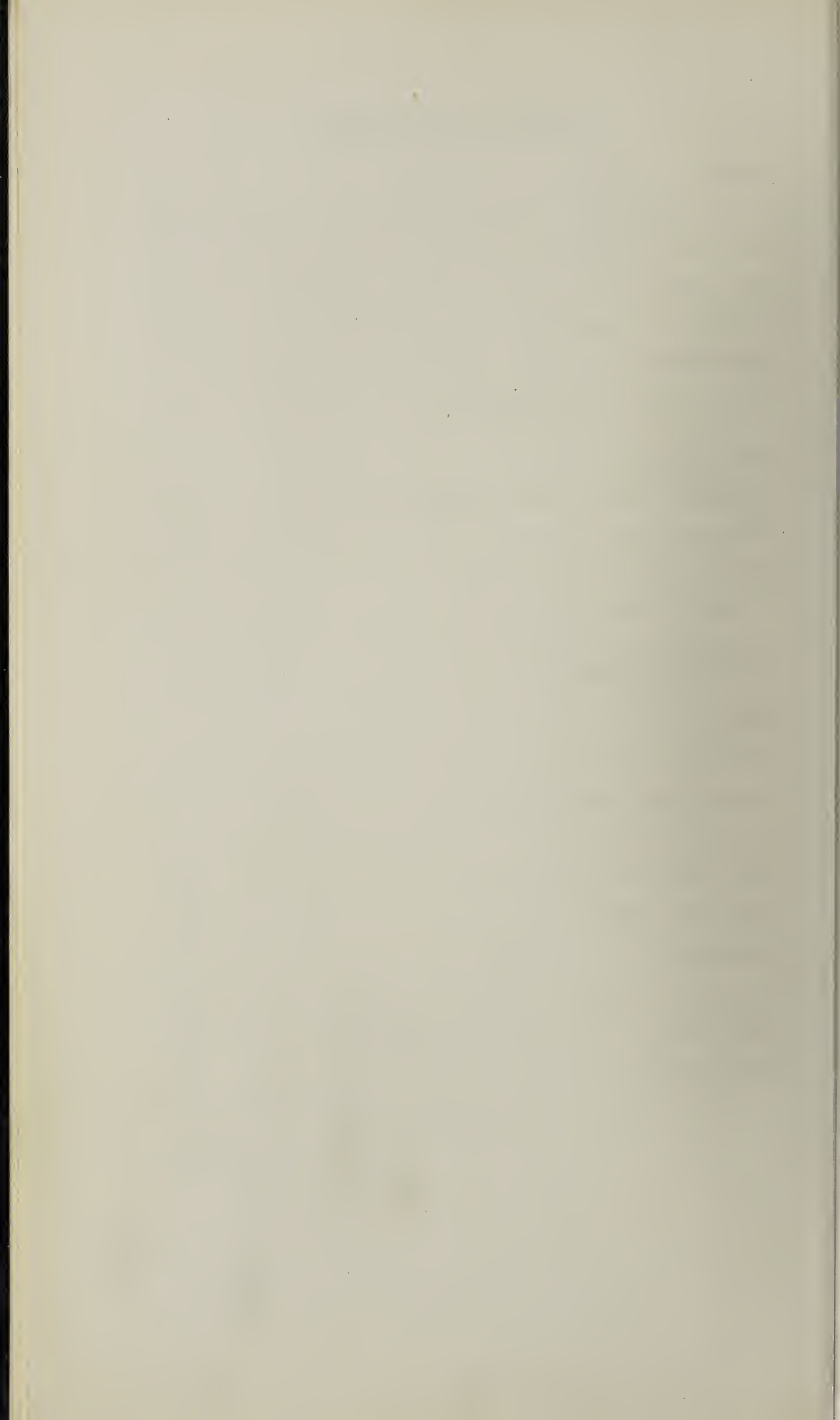
Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection.....	130
Water Supplies.....	215
Milk and Dairies.....	60
Re: Food & Drugs Acts.....	141

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.....

GENERAL

Accummulations.....	110
Knackers Yard Inspections.....	3
Keeping of Animals.....	17
House Vans and Camping Sites.....	138
Hop-pickers Camps.....	327
Factories Acts.....	79
Shops Acts.....	122
Rodent Control (not Rodent Operator).....	149
Miscellaneous.....	220

Total visits 1953: 4,123



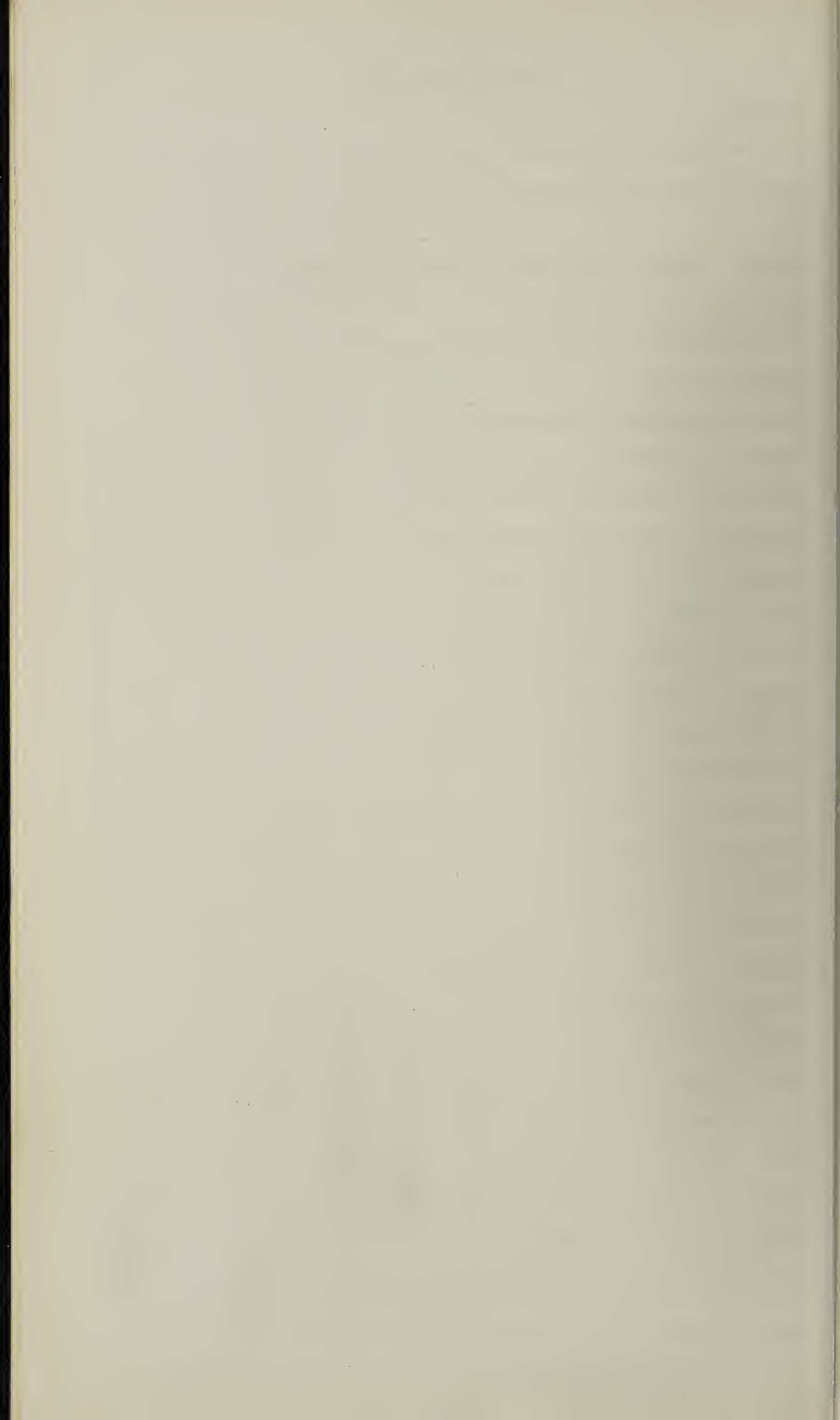
GENERAL STATISTICS

NOTICES

Informal Notices Served.....	61
Informal Notices Completed.....	33

HOUSING DEFECTS DEALT WITH BY INFORMAL NOTICES

Walls and ceilings repaired.....	75
Ceiling joists or other timbers repaired.....	3
Walls repointed.....	8
External rendering replaced.....	2
Dampness remedied.....	50
Defective brickwork rebuilt.....	4
Dangerous outbuildings reconstructed.....	1
Rehang wall tiles where missing.....	2
Replace defective wallplates.....	1
Provide a damp proof course.....	1
Replace broken sashcords.....	14
Repair defective windows or doors.....	36
Defective putties to windows replaced.....	3
Provision of catches to window sashes.....	2
Reglazing of fanlight.....	1
Fireplaces or grates replaced or repaired.....	6
Smoke nuisances abated.....	3
Fillets to chimney stacks replaced.....	4
Broken firebricks.....	3
Chimney stacks, pots, etc. repaired.....	6
Refix loose, slipped or missing roof tiles or slates...	10
General repairs to roofs.....	5
Cleansing of premises.....	5
Repairs to solid or wood floors.....	14
Repair or provide bannisters or handrails.....	3
Repair or replace defective treads or risers to staircases.....	2
Provide permanent ventilation to living rooms.....	7
Provide piped water supply.....	3



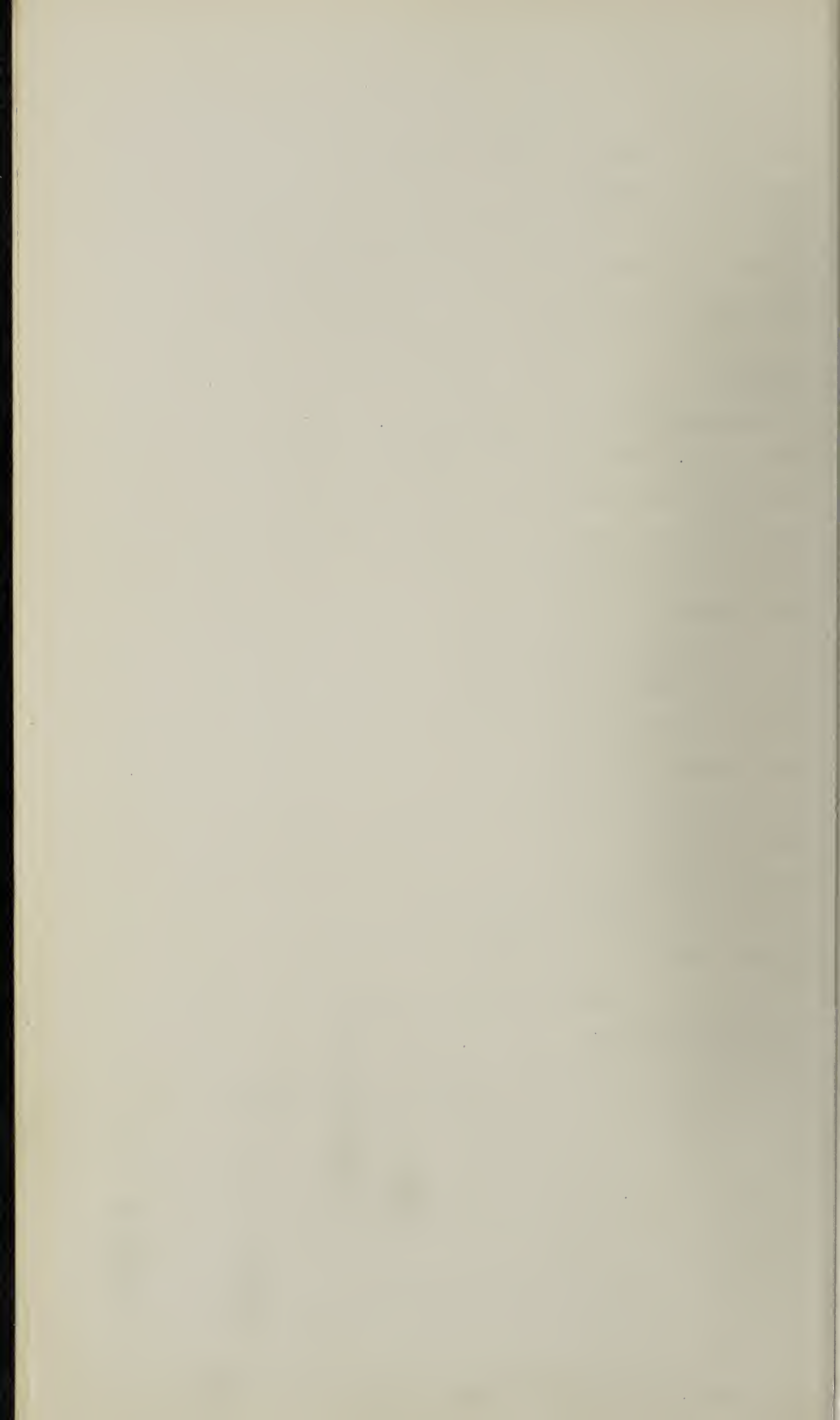
Repair defective skirting board.....	1
Brickwork to copper repaired.....	1
Abatement of overcrowding.....	1
Repair defective external paving.....	2
Gratings to underfloor ventilation cavities.....	1
Replacement of insanitary sinks.....	1

DRAINAGE

Overflowing cesspools.....	9
Provision of surface water drainage.....	2
Repair or replace guttering.....	4
Extension to, or repair R/W downpipes, etc.....	6
Repair of W.C. flush pipes and tanks etc.....	2
Replacement of defective drains or cesspools.....	2
Repair of defective cesspools.....	5
Insanitary conditions of closets.....	1
Provide proper gulleys to drains.....	2
Repair broken wastepipes.....	2
Cleansing of bucket closets.....	1
Choked drains.....	4
Provide flushing cistern to W.C.....	2
Provide new sanitary accommodation.....	1
Replace earth closet with chemical closet.....	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Visits made by Inspectors.....	40
Reports made to M.O.H. on cases of Infectious Diseases	
Scarlet Fever.....	36
Diphtheria.....	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever.....	1
Malaria.....	1
Meningococcal Meningitis.....	<u>1</u>
Total	40
Fumigations carried out because of Infectious Diseases	2



SLAUGHTERHOUSES

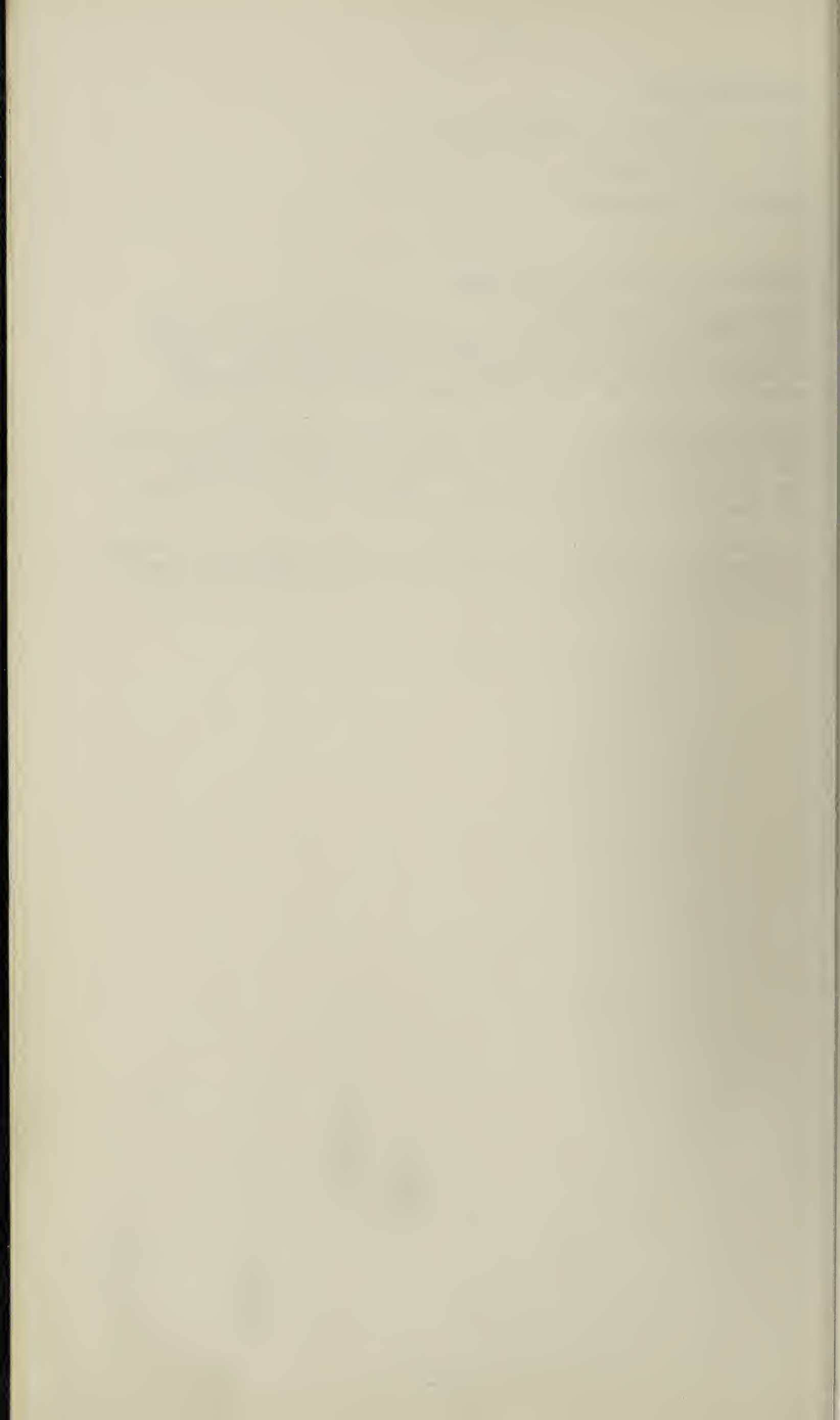
Number of licensed slaughterhouses.....	2
Number of premises cleansed during year.....	2
Number of inspections.....	11

COMMENTS ON GENERAL STATISTICS:-

Notices and housing Defects.- It is very pleasing to note that on no occasion was it necessary to take any statutory action to enforce the carry out of works required. Such statutory action may be required to carry out the works required in the 28 intimation notices not yet completed.

Infectious Disease.- Of the 40 notifications which warranted reports by the Sanitary Inspector, 36 were Scarlet Fever. Only one of these Scarlet Fever cases was removed to hospital, the rest were isolated at home. This is one of the reasons why the figure for fumigations is so low.

The case of Malaria notified was from a soldier recently returned from Korea, and the Cerebro-spinal Fever was a young infant caravan dweller, whose parents were in the district fruit picking.



HOUSING

(a) Total Number of Dwelling Houses inspected.....	764
(b) Number of inspections made on Housing.....	1,111

(c) Number of Houses found requiring repair.....	61
(d) Number of Houses rendered fit by Informal Action.	33
(e) Number of Houses dealt with under Sec.11 Housing Act, 1936:-	

1. Demolished.....	4
2. Reconditioned.....	7

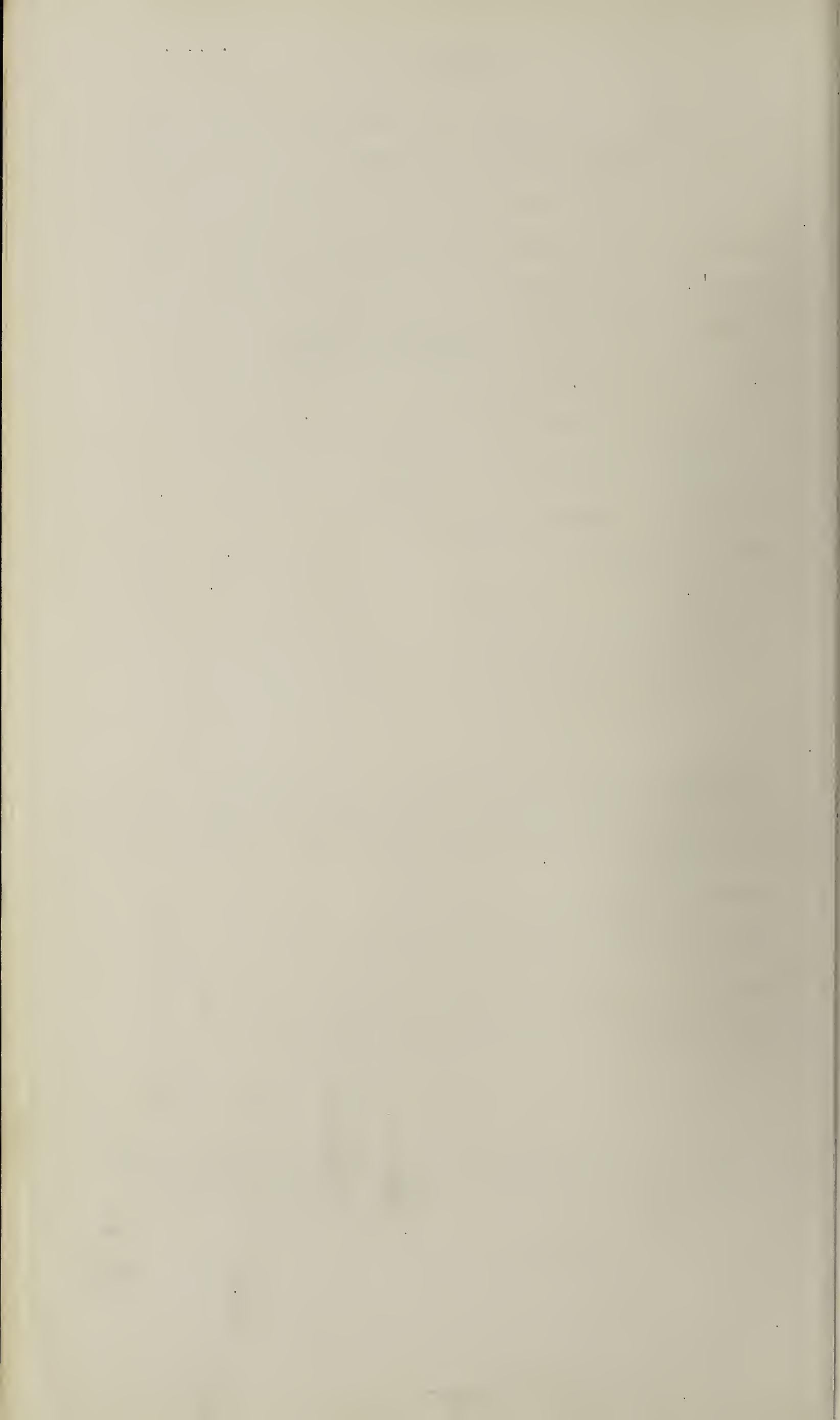
RURAL HOUSING SURVEY

Category	I	Houses.....	1183
"	II	"	1034
"	III	"	1099
"	V	"	158
			<hr/> 3474 <hr/>

Regarding the Category V houses, when the original survey was completed in 1947, the total number was 277, Since that date, repairs by the owner, demolition by the owners or L.A., and reconditioning, have reduced the number to 158. This total is composed as follows:-

(a) Number of Houses still occupied.....	122
(b) Number of Houses vacated and left empty at the request of L.A.....	23
(c) Derelict or used for storage purposes.....	8
(d) Under demolition or closing Orders.....	5
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Total	158
<hr/>	

All of the houses under (b) have been left vacant, pending demolition action by this Council. In most cases they are one of a terrace or a pair, and are awaiting rehousing of other tenants concerned.



FOOD INSPECTION

Meat A summary of all carcasses examined is given below:-

	Pigs	Sheep or Lambs	Calves	Bovine
Number Examined	74	44	5	5
Carcasses completely condemned.	2	2	-	2
% of Total	2.7%	4.5%	-	40%
Carcasses in which a portion (including organs) condemned	3	9	1	3
% of Total	4%	20.4%	20%	60%

Comments of the above:- The low percentage of condemnation of pigs is due to the high standard of pork examined. Most of the pigs seen were from pig clubs, which is the main reason why the standard was high.

All other carcasses examined were casualties, which is the reason for such a high percentage of condemnation.

Meat Condemned (excluding the above)

Fresh Meat.....329½ lbs.
Tinned Meat.....117 lbs.

Other Foods Condemned

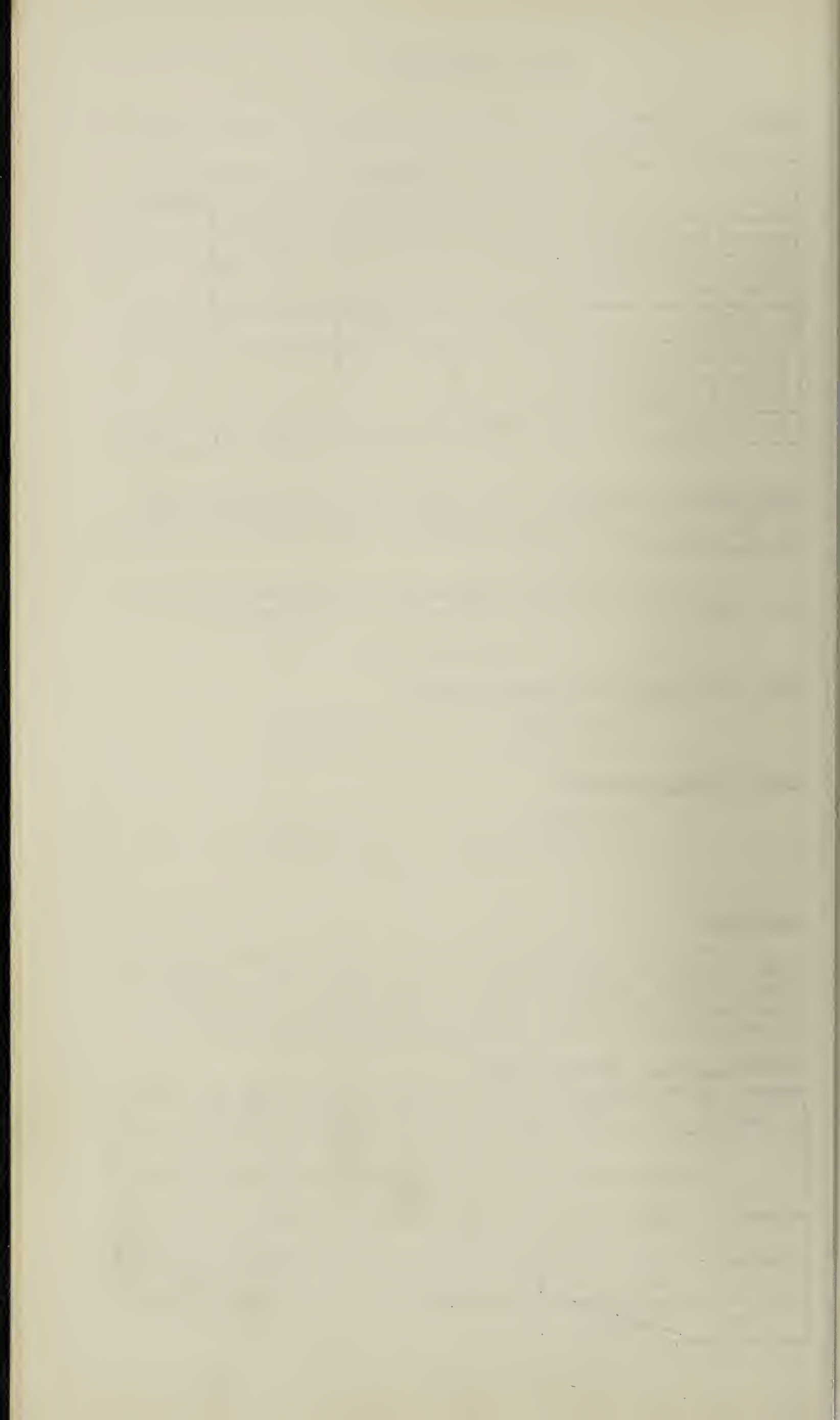
Meat Pies..... 18 lbs.
Sterilised Milk.....200 pints.

Ice Cream

There are 52 premises registered under section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938, for the sale of ice cream. Only one producer still exists in the district and he only produces ice cream during the summer months. His premises have been inspected several times and always found satisfactory.

Bacteriological Samples taken:-

Number of Samples	Methylene Blue Test Group	Pathogenic Organisms	% of Total
26	1	-	74.3%
7	2	-	20%
2	3	-	5.7%
-	4	-	-
35	<u>TOTAL</u>		



Comments on the above Results:-

In the case of both group 111 samples, a further sample was taken as soon as the result of the first became known, and in both cases the result was group 1. I think it is a good indication that the more hygienic methods of handling and storage of this product has resulted in nearly 75% of samples tested have an excellent grading, and less than 6% doubtful. Most of the ice cream sold in this district is made by well known proprietary brands.

Milk and Dairies

Details of Registrations and Licences are given below:-

Dairies registered.....	16
Retailers (excluding Dairies).....	<u>15</u>
	<u>31</u>

Dealers Licences

Sterilised.....	24
Tuberculin Tested.....	10
Pasteurised.....	<u>10</u>
	<u>44</u>

Supplementary Licences

Sterilised.....	3
Tuberculin Tested.....	3
Pasteurised.....	<u>3</u>
	<u>9</u>

Milk Samples (Bacteriological)

Grade	No. of Samples	Unsatisfactory Samples	% of Total
Raw	-	-	-
Sterilised	9	-	-
Tuberculin Tested	2	1	50%
Pasteurised	8	-	-
Biological Tested	1	-	-
Totals	20	1	50%



FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

Following is a table showing the inspections made of Factories and Workshops, giving defects found, action taken and results:-

Factories and Workplaces

Premises	Number	Inspections	Notices Served	Notices complied with	Statutory action required
Factories with Mechanical power	58	66	1	1	-
Factories without Mechanical power	12	13	1	1	-
Totals	70	79	2	2	-

Regarding the two intimations made, one was for dampness caused by a defective gutter. The other was for heating and lighting to a small factory without Mechanical Power in the Loose Parish. Both notices were complied with, within a few days.

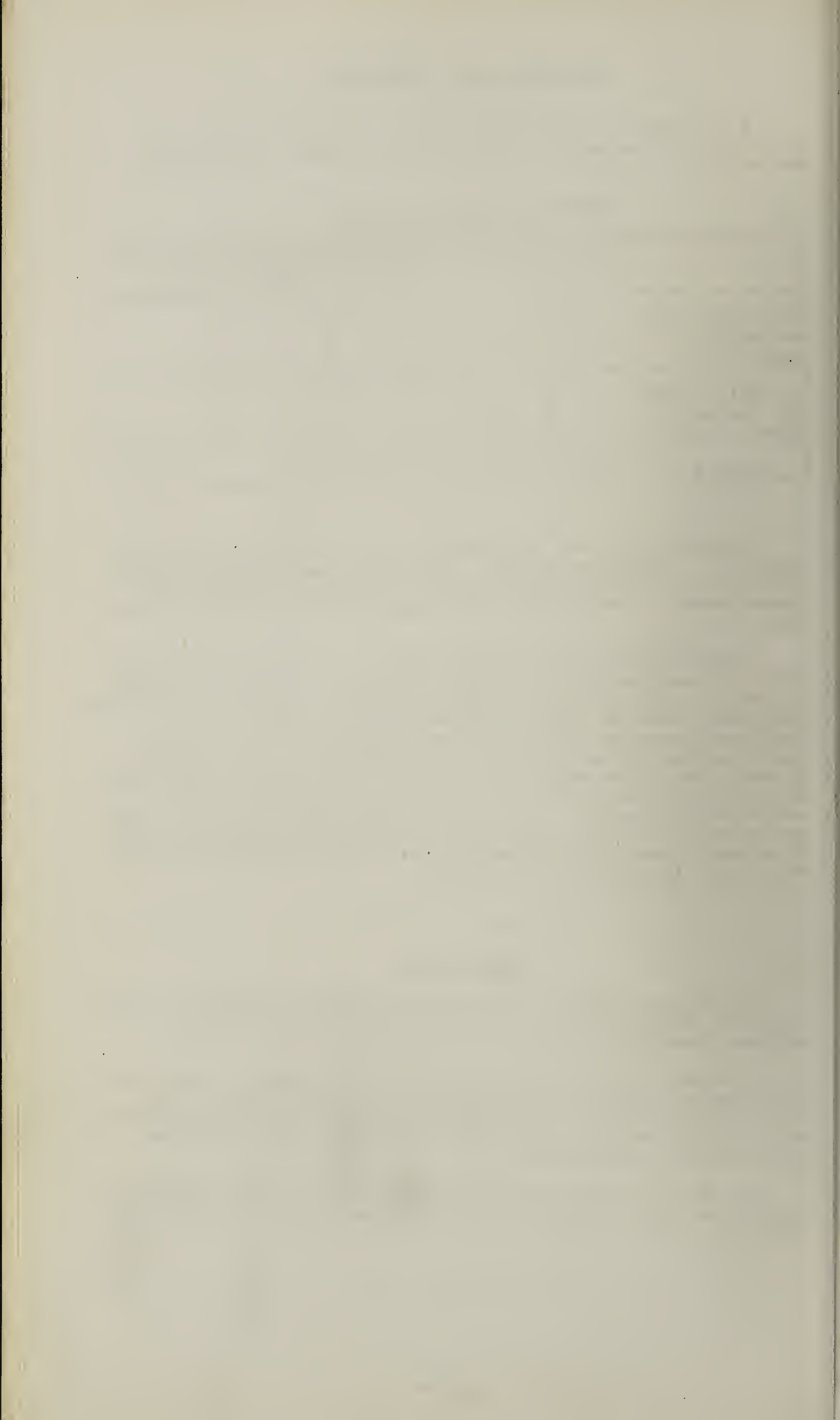
Regarding Fire Precautions under Sec. 34 of the Factories Act 1937, and the issue of certificates as to Means of Escape in case of fire, we have always co-operated with the K.C.C. Fire Department, and on these occasions a joint inspection by a Sanitary Inspector and K.C.C. Fire Officer is made, and the specification for works required is prepared by both parties. In such a way, the experience of both Fire Department and Local Authority are combined to give the factory owner the most satisfactory results. It has also been found that the closest co-operation is experienced with H.M. Factory Inspectors, and on several occasions representatives of both departments have made joint inspections of premises.

SHOPS ACTS

The County Council have delegated certain powers only with regard to Shops Act inspection, the most important being sanitary accommodation.

A total of 122 inspections were made during the year, and satisfactory conditions were found in all cases except one, where the provision of sanitary accommodation was exempt because of the close proximity of a Railway Station, which afforded satisfactory accommodation.

No Shops in this district employ staff of such numbers that special sanitary accommodation and canteen facilities must be provided.



FOOD PREMISES

Statistics

No. of Cafes and Restaurants in district.....	13
No. of Food Shops (ex. Butchers).....	84
No. of Butchers' Shops.....	18
No. of Licensed Premises.....	55
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Total	170
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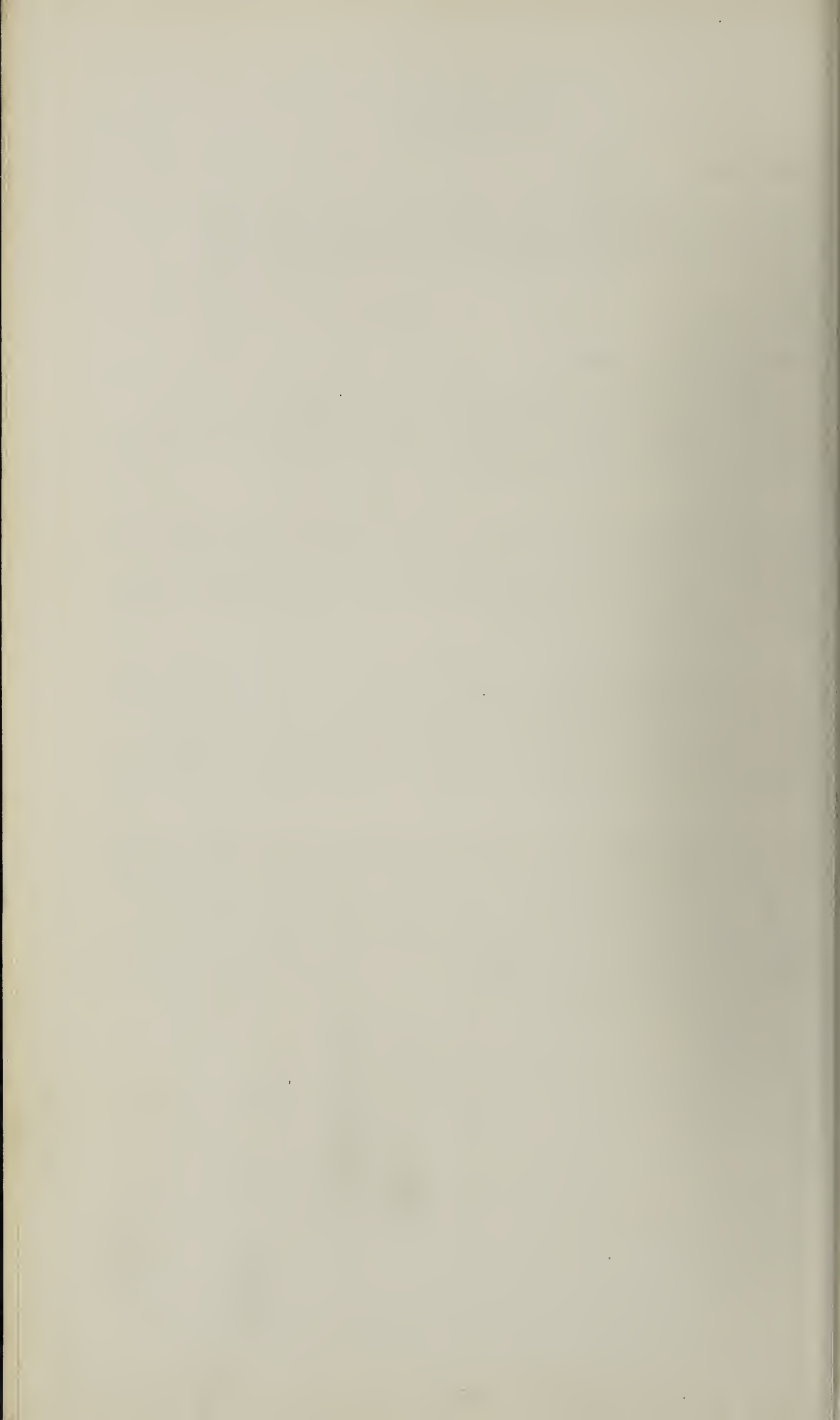
Comments on the above.-

141 inspections were made on food premises, and on no occasion was it found necessary to take statutory action in getting done any works required. 15 intimation notices were served, but most of the notices were verbal, and in all cases the work was done satisfactorily.

A very high standard is held by the small village Grocers shop in this district, and most of the grocers pride themselves in their cleanliness of habit and property. Most of these shops are very modern, regarding their internal design and layout. One or two stragglers are kept under constant observation, and require a little persuasion to keep their premises up to the required standard.

One or two bakers do not appear to be quite so particular in their bakehouses, but in these cases, I think we should take into consideration difficulties of labour. With such long hours it is not always easy to find the most desirable of employees, and clean habits are not practised by all bakers and their assistants, but every effort is being made to teach cleaner habits to those who require a little education on this subject.

Further visits have been made inspecting Slaughterhouses, Dairies, Farm stores, etc. and seeing that a reasonable standard of cleanliness is maintained. It is hoped that apple-packing sheds, cornstores and other such farm buildings will be brought under Sec. 13 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938, but pressure of other work has so far made this impossible. When it is realised that Food storage premises of one kind or another are found on all farms, the fact that some of them are not inspected regularly can more readily be understood.



WATER SUPPLY

During the year, a total of 27 water samples were taken. 14 samples were taken from water mains for the purpose of Bacteriological analysis, and 13 samples taken from local sources for chemical and Bacteriological analysis.

Summary of results

Bacteriological Samples

Type of Water	No. of Samples	RESULTS		
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	% of Total
Main	14	14	-	-
Raw	13	2	11	85%

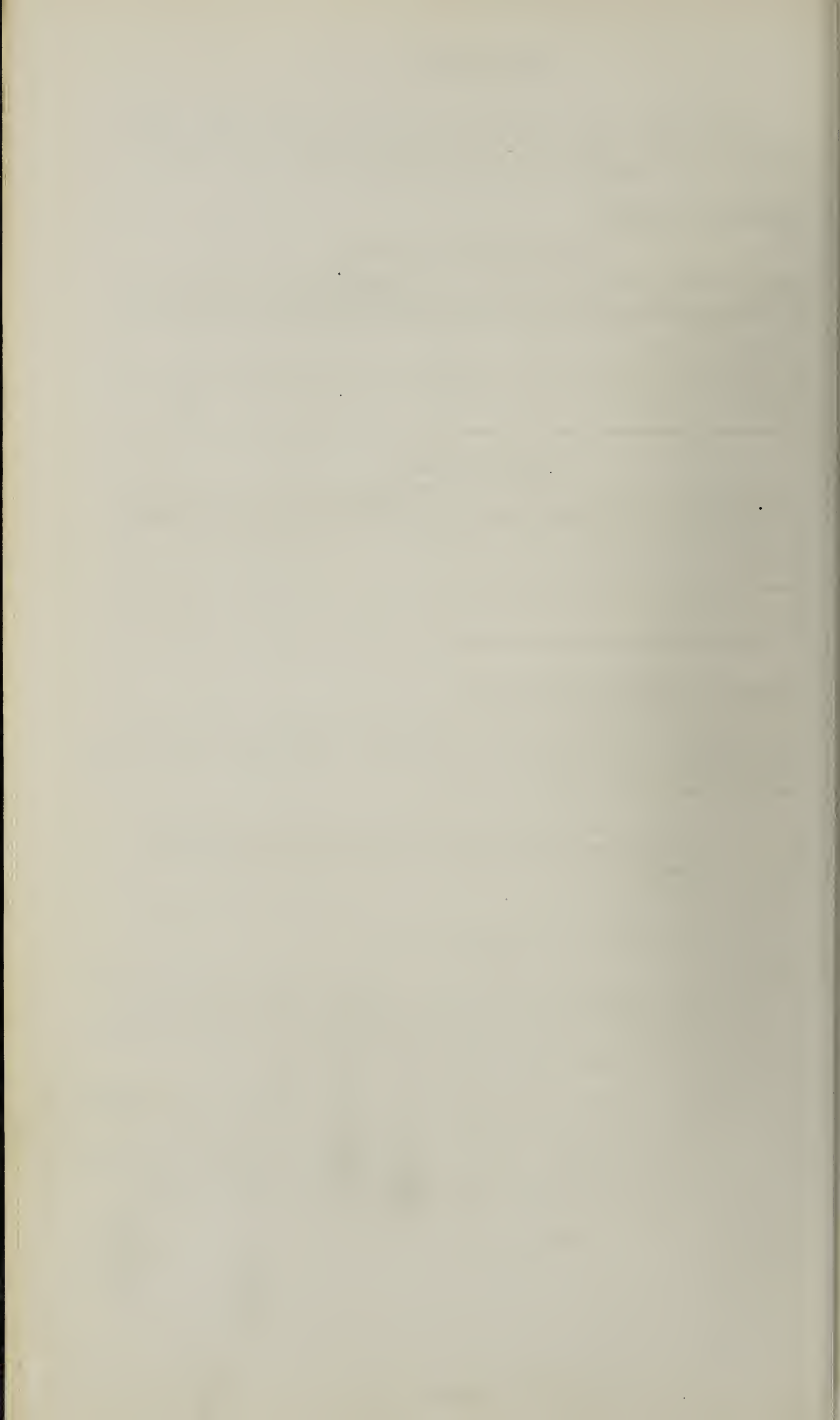
Chemical Samples

Type of Water	No. of Samples	RESULTS		
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	% of Total
Main	-	-	-	-
Raw	13	2	11	85%

Comment on Results of Samples

Of the 13 samples taken from local sources, 11 of them, 85% proved to be polluted in some way. Only two wells were of sufficiently pure standard to be fit for drinking. The 11 bad samples were composed as follows:-

- I. 2 wells were found polluted and in both cases the properties which relied on these wells for water supply are now obtaining their supply from water mains.
- II. 1 sample was of a liquor found in a wood at Otham, and proved to be pure sewage.
- III. 1 sample was taken from a stream which was being used for water supply by fruit picking caravan dwellers. When the farmer employing these pickers was informed of their unsatisfactory water supply, he moved them to a site which was close to a mains water tap.
- IV. The other 7 bad samples were all taken during a survey of the Hunton Hill Top area. All 7 wells are used for drinking and domestic purposes, and are heavily contaminated. The Ministry have now approved a Council scheme for taking piped water supply to this area, and the works should commence in the next few months.



CAMPING SITES AND CARAVANS

There are 3 caravan sites in the district, one in East Farleigh for 20 caravans, another in Barming for 25 vans, and the third in Nettlestead for 20 caravans, a total of 65 caravans.

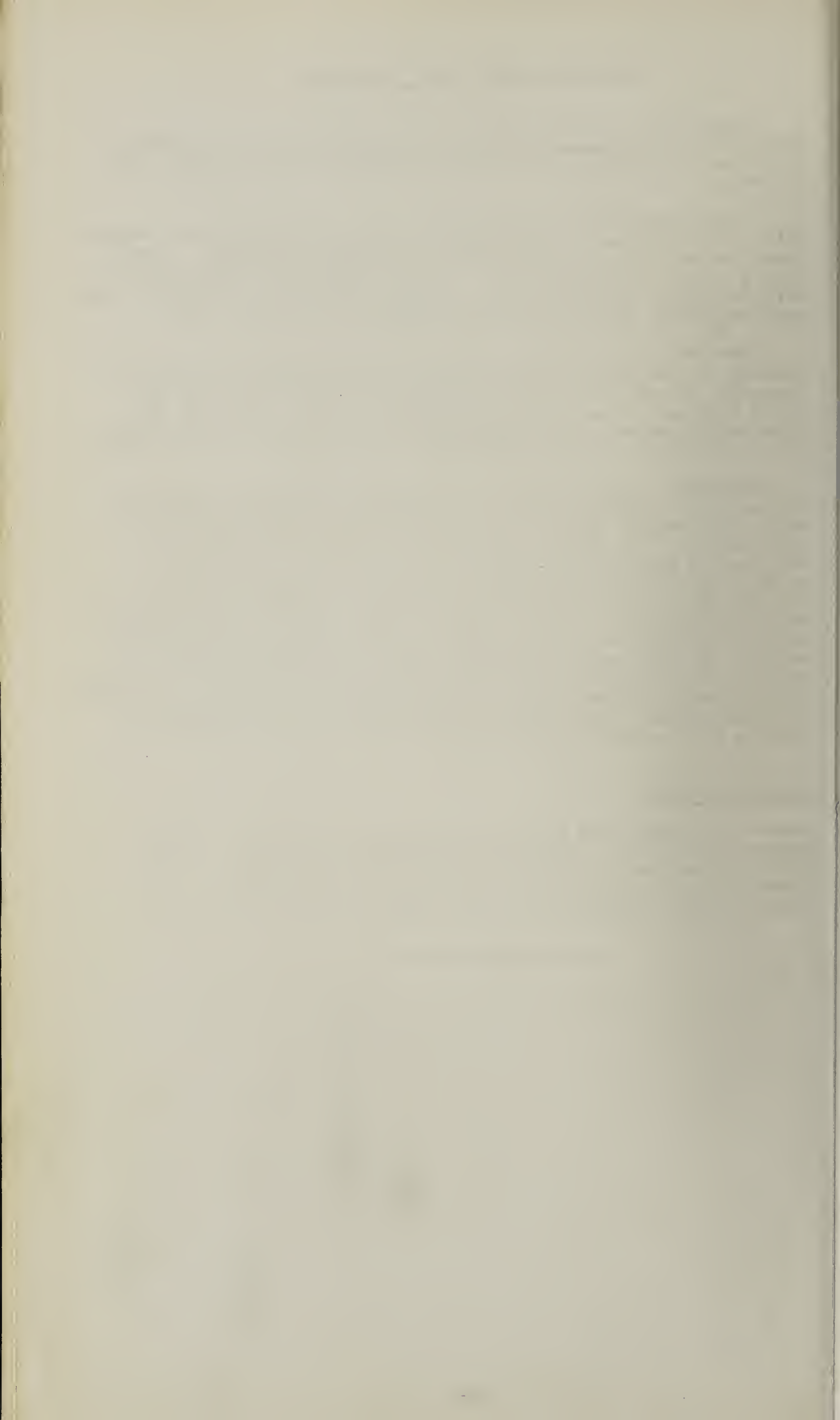
138 inspections were made last year for caravans and camps, which would include applications for further licences. Seven such applications were made, and only one was approved under Town & County Planning Acts. In this case, not sufficient works have been done to comply with licensing requirements under section 269 of Public Health Act 1936.

Numerous applications have been received from all over the country for suitable camping sites in this district, and the addresses of our three sites were sent to the enquirers, but the 3 licensed sites in this district have been full for some time, which appears to indicate the necessity for further sites, preferably under Council control.

Numerous vans are seen all over the district, especially during fruit picking season, but these vans, and the sites on which they stand, nearly all claim exemption from licensing under section 269 para. 5 sub-para. (b) i.e. "A moveable dwelling is kept by its owner on agricultural land occupied by him, and is used for habitation only at certain seasons, and only by persons employed in farming operations on that land." Legally they should not be exempt, as the owner of the caravan is not the occupier of the land on which he works, but the employee of that owner, therefore the exemption quoted does not apply. But in such a fruit growing district as this, and knowing the difficulty farmers have in obtaining casual labour, I am sure the Council would not be very popular if they decided to enforce this section to the full.

Summary of data

Number of inspections made.....	138
Number of licensed sites in the district.....	3
Number of caravans licensed.....	1
Number of applications made for licences.....	7
Number of new applications turned down.....	7



HOP-PICKERS' CAMPS

Total number of Hop-pickers' camps in use	96
Total number of huts.....	5703
Estimated number of pickers.....	21,000

The hop-picking season lasted approximately from the last week in August to the third week in September, and no statutory action was required.

A total of 320 inspections were made on camps during the year, and most of these in the season. Each camp was inspected at least once while in occupation and all were found to be in a satisfactory condition.

Four intimations of defective latrines were required, but this work was attended to within a few days of notification.

On the 3rd September a Dr. Elliott from the Ministry of Health, Dr. Gaffikin and myself made routine inspections of 5 camps, in the Yalding area. Dr. Elliott was very favourably impressed with the condition and type of camps seen.

On the whole, I think the Council can be proud of the hop-pickers' camps in this area. As already known, this is the largest area in the country for this type of camp, and owing to the fact that they are in use for such short periods the owners are very reluctant to spend vast sums of money for their upkeep and improvement. Even so, every camp in the district has a piped water supply, and most huts have concrete floors, are solidly constructed and well maintained. Another satisfying factor is that when a farmer intends to construct new or replace old huts, he nearly always asks for the requirements under the byelaws, and requests that the Public Health Department supervise the works carried out, a very welcome piece of co-operation.



RODENT CONTROL

Summary of Inspections and Treatments made by the Operator

Number of Premises Treated.....	1223
Number of visits for all purposes	2819
Number of Farms surveyed.....	171

Estimated number of rats and mice killed by treatment
during 1953..... Rats - 2979
Mice - 477

Our Operator used Warfarin Bait for practically all treatments. During the year 6 cwts. of oatmeal was used in conjunction with 42 lbs. of Warfarin I and 15 lbs. of Warfarin 5. Warfarin I is used for exterminating Rats and 5 is used for mice. Also used with other poisons, and damp Warfarin baits was 2 cwts. of Sausage Rusk.

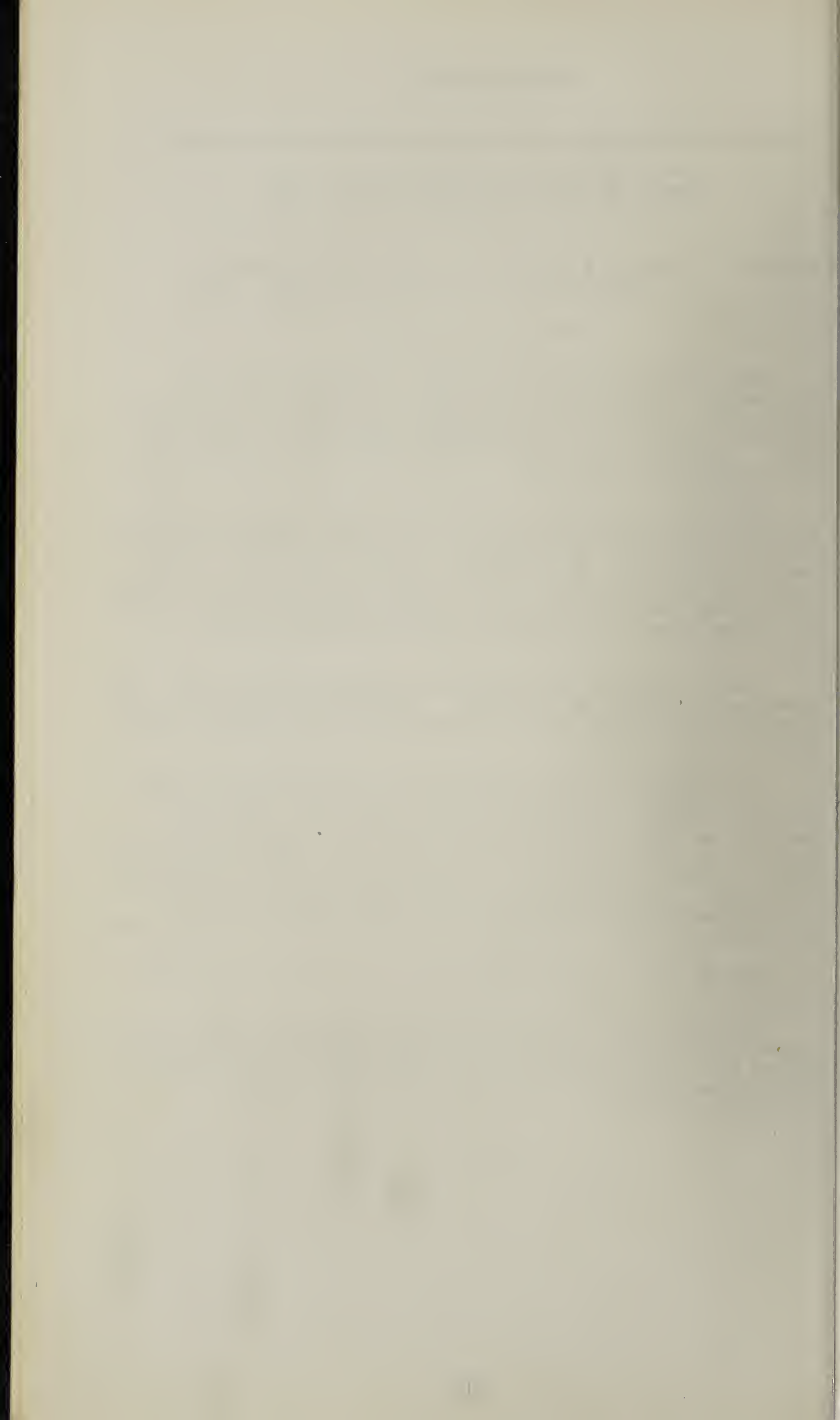
More and more people, farmers and business men, in the district, are taking advantage of the annual treatment service, which is offered by the Council. By the end of the year 31 contracts are held, to be renewed annually, and most of these contracts are with farms. By treating the agricultural areas, it has been found that sources of local infestations are wiped out before they can spread and infest adjoining private properties.

During the year, one claim for compensation was made. It concerned the death of 2 piglets. The Council refused to pay compensation as there was no evidence that our Operator showed neglect in his duties.

The administration of this service has been altered, to give more control and information of treatments made. Every property treated is entered on a separate form, specially prepared and full particulars of baits laid, poison used, position of baits, dates of visits, etc. are made on appropriate forms. When the treatment is completed the form is filed for future use. Any re-infestations of properties are entered on the original form, so that the infestation history of any property is at hand for reference purposes as and when required.

During the year 5,403 miles were travelled by our Rodent Operator in the course of his duties.

Over and above the visits made by my Operator, 149 inspections of Food Premises were made by myself and Mr. Jolley, during the course of our routine inspections of such premises. I am pleased to report that on no occasion was a heavy infestation found.



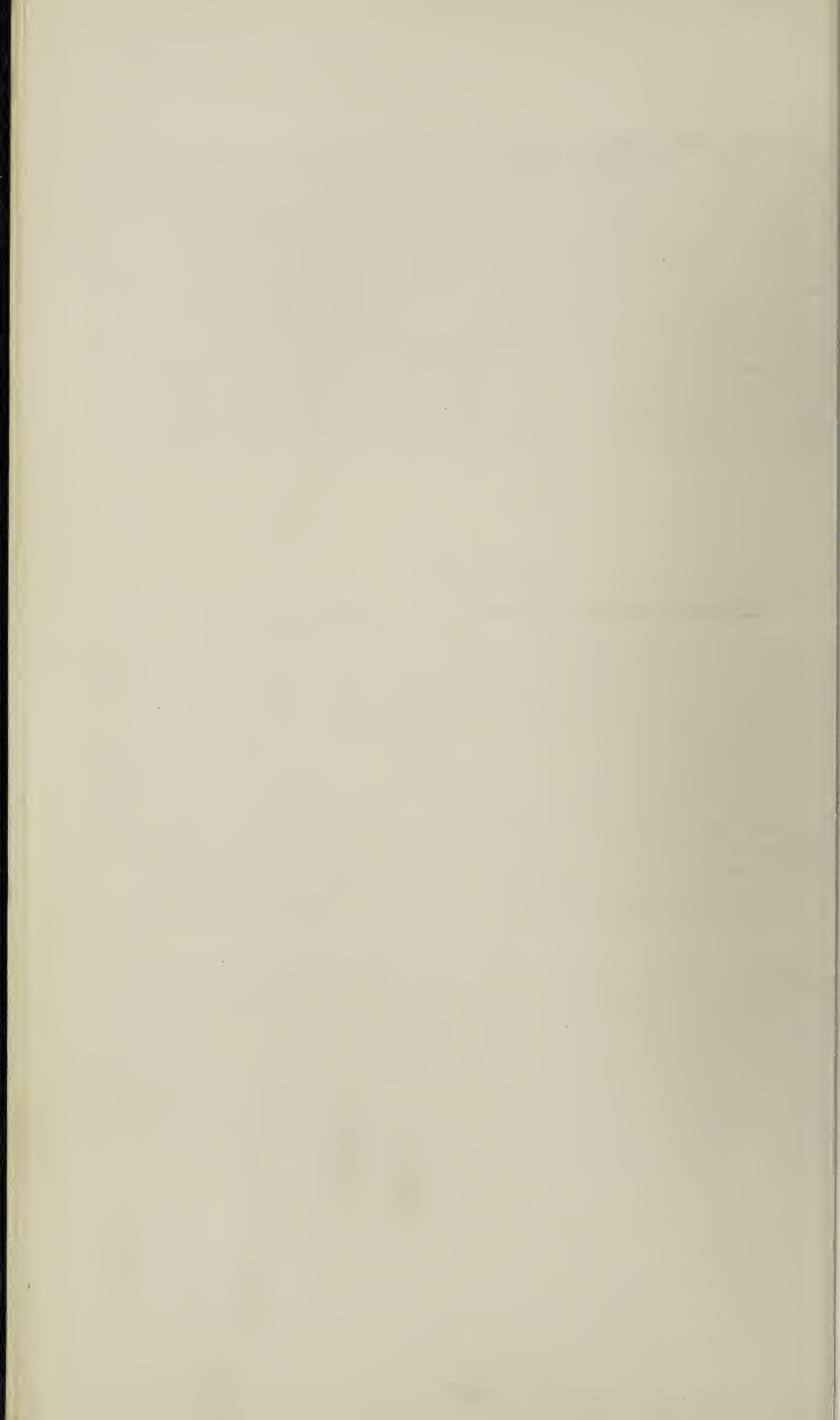
Inspection and Control of Food. The details of the inspection of meat, of the sampling of milk with the results of the bacteriological examinations of ice cream and of other foods, will be found in the Tables furnished by your Chief Sanitary Inspector. No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year but the greater use which is now made of cafes and restaurants and the growing popularity of ready-cooked and prepared foods, has increased the risk of food poisoning, but it is at the point where the food is finally prepared and served that the risk of contaminations is greatest and many modern houses are sadly lacking in larder space. I am glad to note the increased popularity of ready-wrapped bread and the care which some shops are taking to protect food which is offered for sale. In this matter of the protection of food from contamination, the ordinary citizen is the best support of the health department; there is the old saying "The customer is always right", and in no way can he be more right than in an insistence that the shops with which he deals must have a high standard of cleanliness or lose his custom.

Section "F"

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Disease.

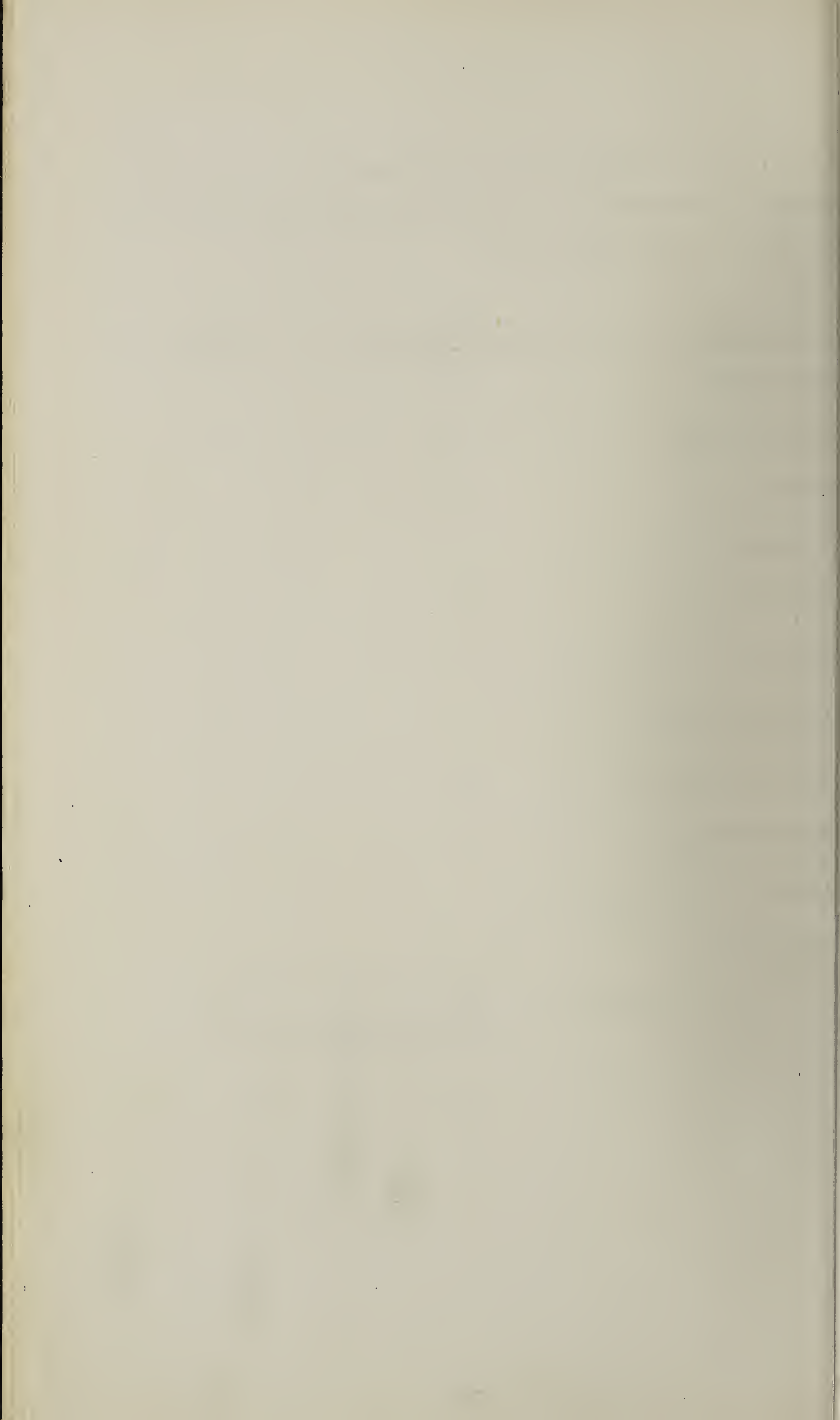
The notifiable disease for which there was the heaviest incidence in 1953 was measles and the cases appeared to be spread all over the Rural District. There had been no really large outbreak of measles in the area since 1943 and the child population was largely susceptible, and 410 notifications were received. This increase may be more indicative of an increase in notification than of an increase in the incidence of the disease, for I know that some practitioners had not even realised that notification was necessary. I am glad to say that the disease was accompanied by complications in only a few cases and that there were no deaths. No cases of polio-myelitis were reported during 1953 and again I am happy to record that the Rural District was free from Diphtheria. The success of immunisation against diphtheria has been such that the danger now is that the risk may not be appreciated and that neglect in securing that the child population is adequately protected may allow this disease to re-appear.

In the following Tables I give the notifications of infectious disease and Tables showing the numbers immunised against diphtheria and vaccinated against small-pox during the year. There is also a Table showing the number of children under the age of 15 years on December 31st 1953, who have had a complete course of immunisation at any time before that date. These figures have been kindly supplied to me by the County Medical Officer, but the feature which is most easily understood and most appreciated by the public is the absence of diphtheria from the Table of Notification. That this happy position should be maintained, it is necessary that there should be no neglect of the precaution of immunisation.



I give below, in tabular form, details of the cases of notifiable diseases, other than Tuberculosis, which occurred in the Rural District during 1953.

DISEASE.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.	TOTAL DEATHS.
Scarlet Fever	36	-
Whooping Cough	38	-
Measles	410	-
Pneumonia	27	14
Dysentery	Nil	-
Erysipelas	3	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	-
Acute Polio-myelitis	Nil	-
Food Poisoning	Nil	-
Malaria	1	-
Chicken Pox	1	-
Totals ...	518	14



IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA AND
VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX, 1953.

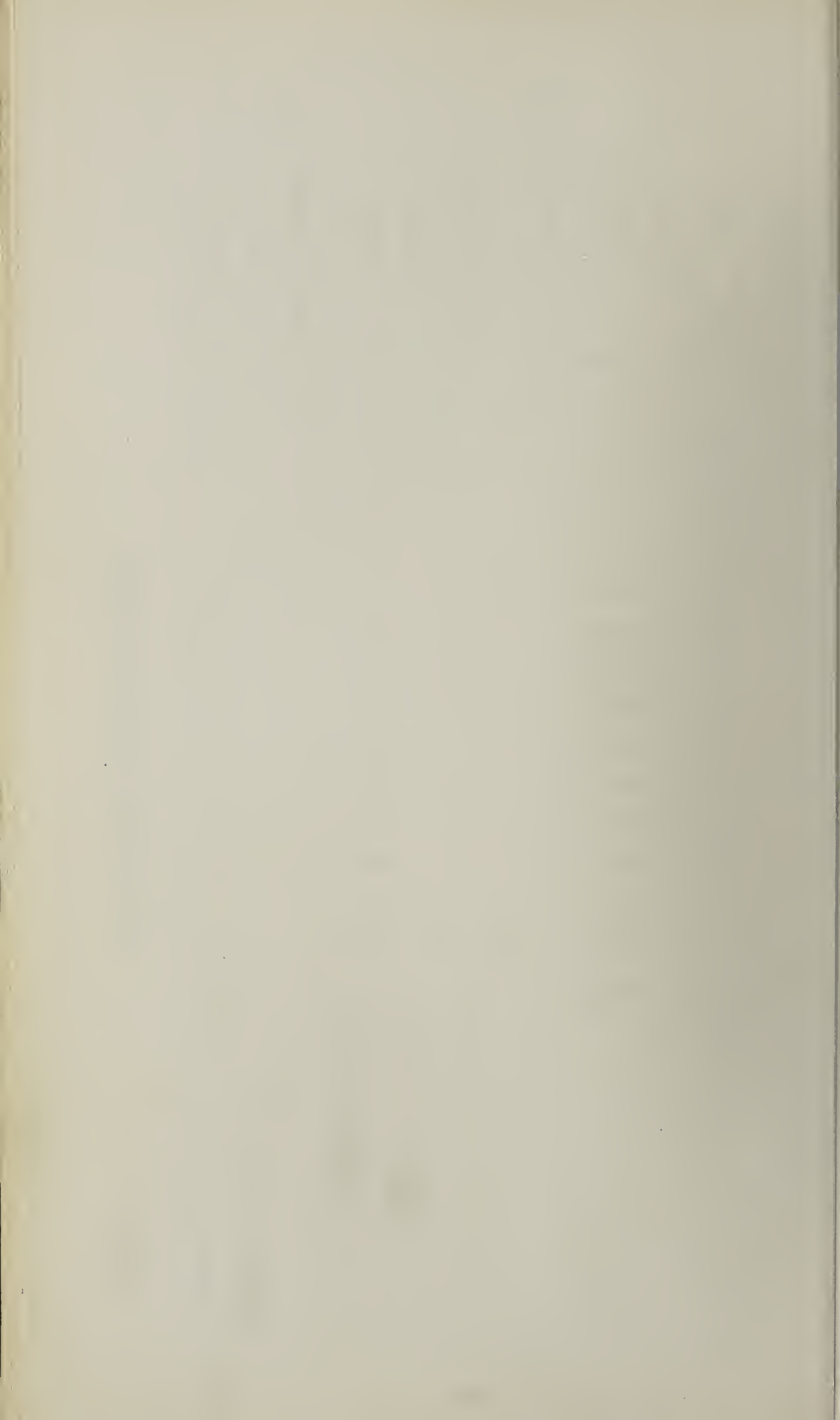
The following is a return of (A) the number of children resident in the Rural District of Maidstone who were immunised against diphtheria and (B) the number of persons who were vaccinated against smallpox, during the year ended 31st December, 1953:-

(A) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Year of Births	Primary Inoculations	Re-inforcing Inoculations
1953	19	-
1952	169	-
1951	18	-
1950	5	-
1949	2	4
1948	3	95
1947	4	33
1946	1	8
1945	1	5
1944	-	9
1943	-	4
1942	1	5
1941	-	1
1940	-	2
1939	-	1
TOTAL.	223	167

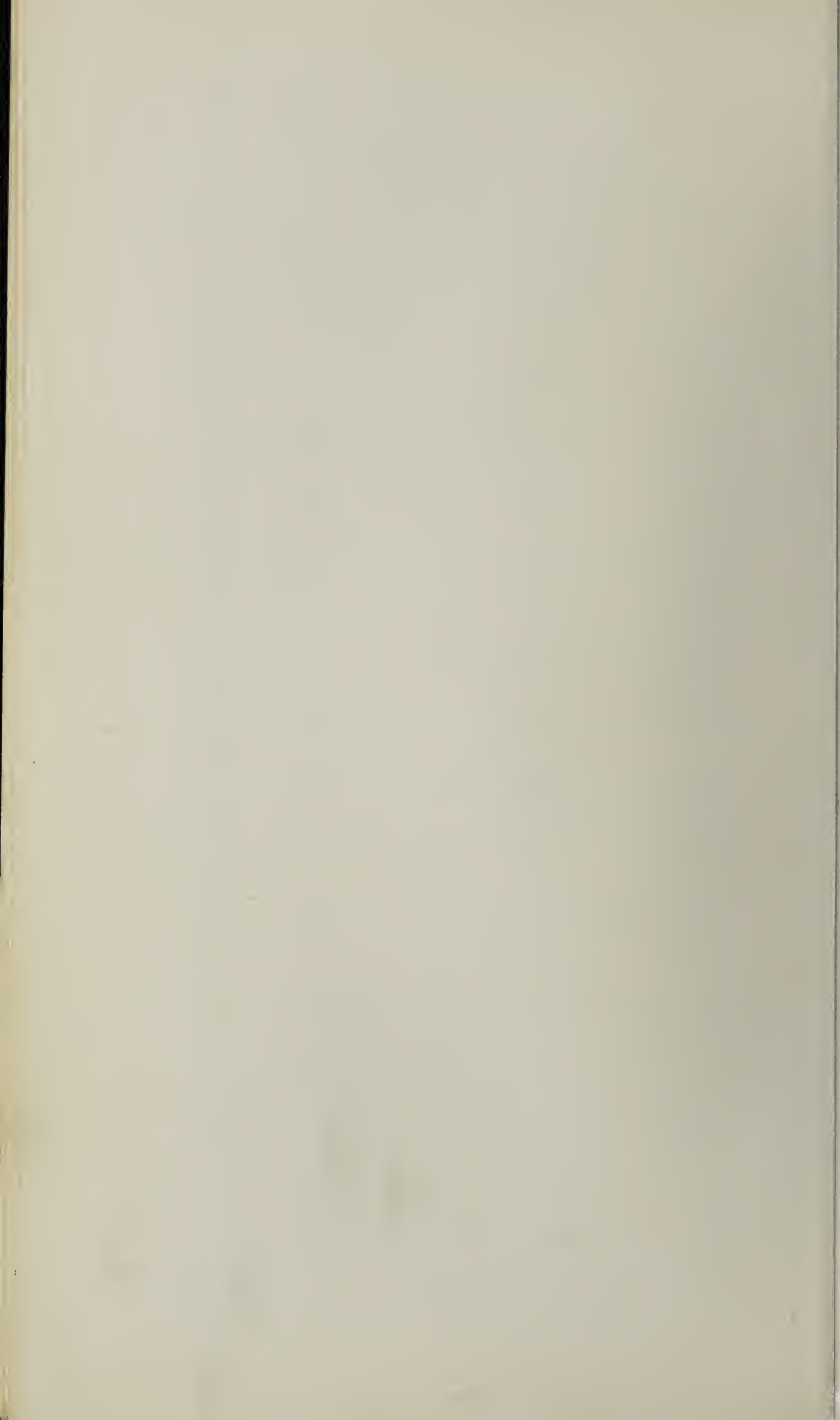
(B) VACCINATION

Year of Births	Primary Vaccination	Re-Vaccination
1953	139	-
1952	69	-
1951	4	-
1950	-	1
1949	3	-
1948	2	1
1947	2	-
1946	-	-
1945	-	-
1944	1	-
1943	-	-
1942	-	-
1941	1	1
1940	-	1
1939	-	1
Before 1939	13	30
TOTAL.	234	35



The following is a return of the number of children under the age of 15 years on the 31st December, 1953, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1939.)

Year of Birth	Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster) 1949-1953	1948 or earlier	Population 1951 Census
1939	112	67	243
1940	104	121	241
1941	100	84	232
1942	84	92	223
1943	115	75	236
1944	144	72	252
1945	95	131	250
1946	133	89	269
1947	158	92	315
1948	265	9	278
1949	228	-	354
1950	251	-	327
1951	212	-	297
1952	185	-	300
1953	19	-	305
TOTAL.	2205	832	4122



MALIGNANT DISEASE.

The number of deaths from Cancer in the Maidstone Rural District during the past two years is as under:-

1952 45
1953 43

OPHTHAIMIA NEONATORUM

(i) Total number of cases notified during the year	Nil.
(ii) Number of cases in which:-	
(a) Vision lost	-
(b) Vision impaired	-
(c) Treatment continuing at the end of year	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

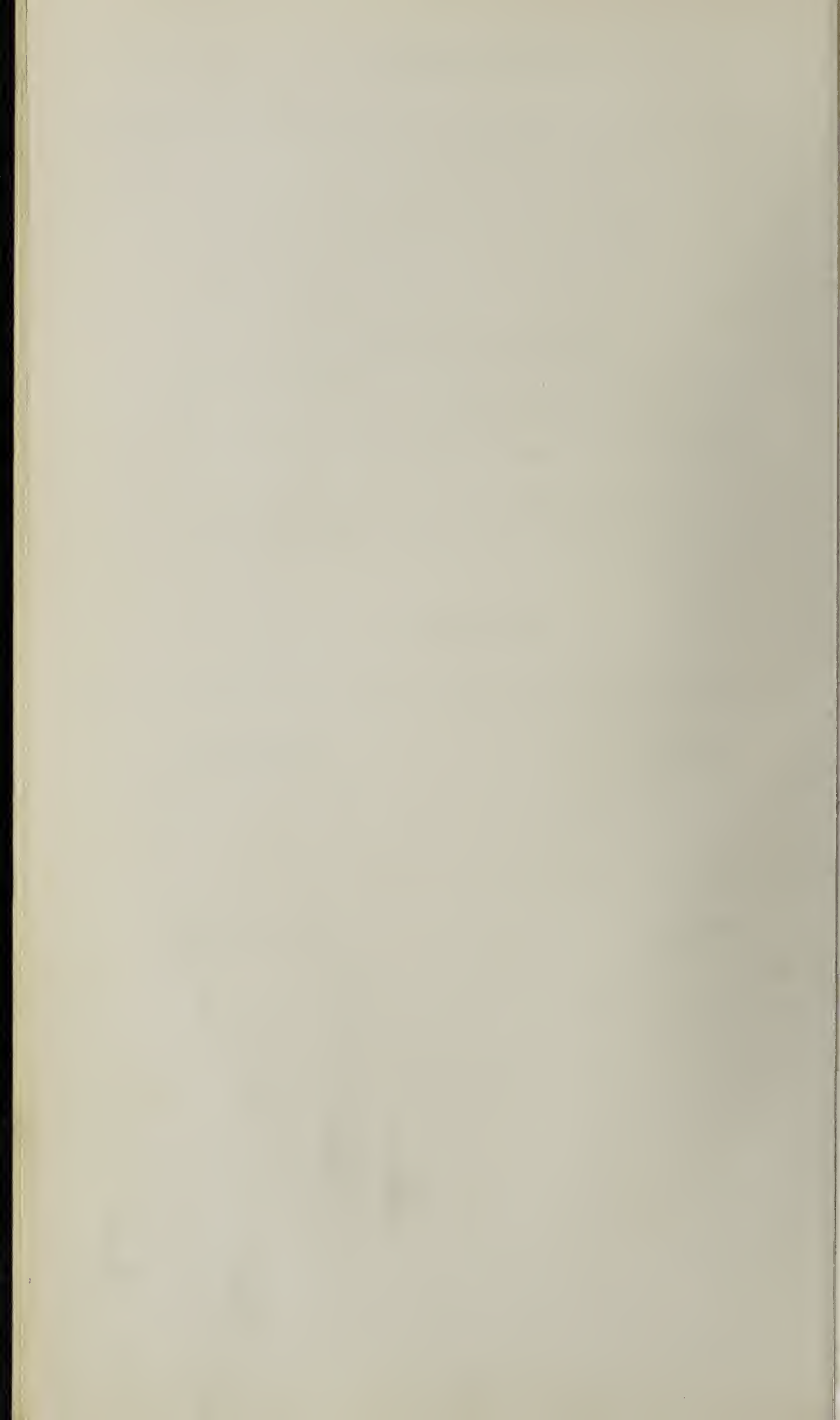
The following cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year.

<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
Male	Female	Male	Female
4	1	2	-

Deaths from this disease were as under:-

<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
Male	Female	Male	Female
1	1	3	-

TOTAL = 5



The Chest Physician for the area, Dr. D.L. Pugh,¹ has kindly supplied me with information as to the preventive care and after-care measures which are in operation in the Mid-Kent area. The figures relate to the area which is served by the Chest Clinic in Maidstone, which is approximately the area of the four Authorities for which I am M.O.H. The figures quoted below give the number of patients diagnosed as suffering from tuberculosis, and the results of the investigation of contacts of these cases, in the five years 1949-1953. These figures show that of the known contacts 58.5% were examined and of those investigated 5.25% were diagnosed as being tuberculous.

Year	Persons diagnosed as tuberculous.	Number of known contacts.	Number of contacts examined.	Contacts diagnosed tuberculous.
1949	141	201	89	10
1950	108	209	110	4
1951	102	231	105	7
1952	139	227	164	2
1953	123	179	145	9

If, after treatment, it is possible for a patient to return, with safety, to his previous employment, this is the policy which is followed. If, however, that particular employment should prove to be inadvisable, or unsuitable for the patient on his recovery, every effort is made to help him to find suitable occupation, through the good offices of the Disablement Resettlement Officer, Ministry of Labour, and in some cases it is possible to arrange that the patient should have a course of training, to fit him for work more appropriate to his condition. No tuberculous patient would, of course, be allowed to work where there was milk or food to be handled and I have had no experience of a sputum-positive case refusing to leave his work and thus become a danger to his fellow employees, but should such a position arise, steps would be taken to endeavour to protect such fellow-workers.

In the tracing and following-up of contacts of known cases and of deaths certified as being due to tuberculosis, but not previously notified, the Health Visitor visits the household and contacts are called to the Chest Clinic for examination.

During the period 7-ix-53 to 28-xi-53, the Mass Radiography Unit No. 7B was sited in Maidstone and large number of volunteers from industrial concerns and from the general public, attended. A summary of the results is given below.

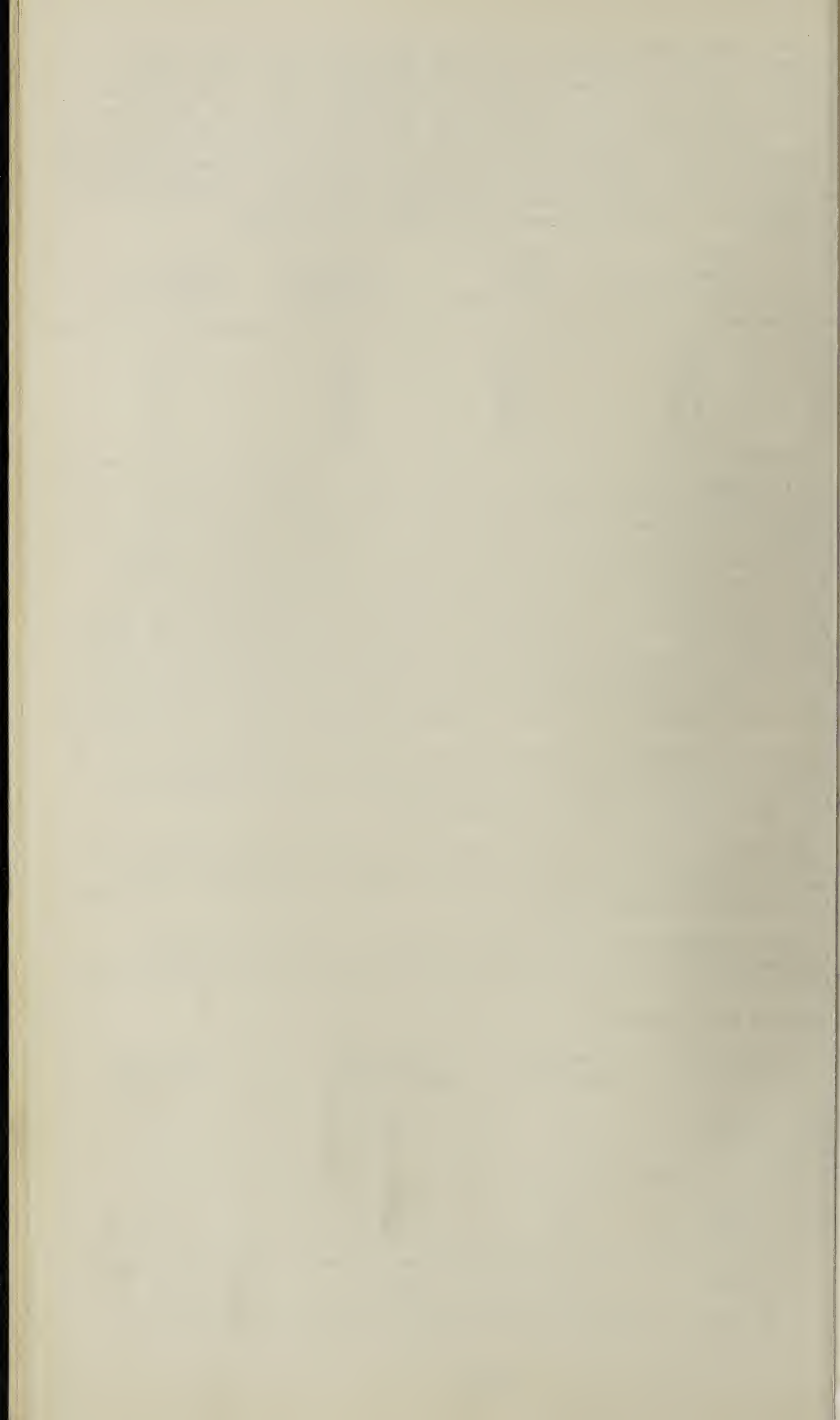
These figures also relate to the Mid-Kent area as the Mass Radiography Unit dealt with volunteers from Maidstone and the adjacent Rural Districts.

Volunteers from Industries.

	Examined	Active tuberculosis.	Inactive tuberculosis.	Carcinoma of lung.
Male	4,617	6	126	1
Female	3,511	4	55	-

Volunteers from General Public.

Male	2,114	2	45	1
Female	3,501	4	76	-
	13,743	16	300	2



1953.

CAUSES OF DEATHS

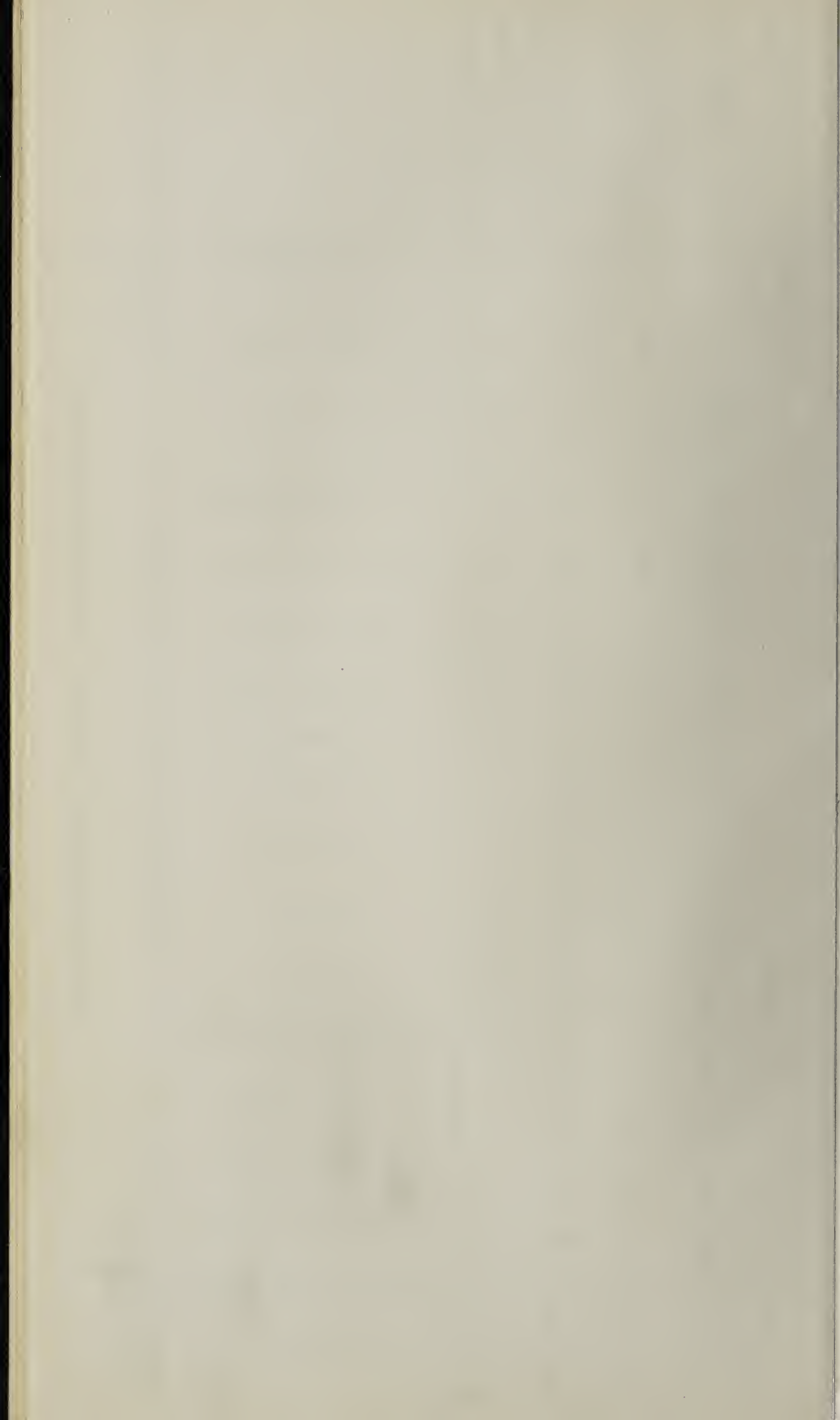
M.

F.

All Causes	175	164
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory					1	1
2 Tuberculosis, other					3	-
3 Syphilitic disease					1	-
4 Diphtheria					-	-
5 Whooping Cough					-	-
6 Meningococcal infections					-	-
7 Acute poliomyelitis					-	-
8 Measles					-	-
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases					-	-
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach					5	5
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus					3	1
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast					-	3
13 Malignant neoplasm, uterus					-	2
14 Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms					14	10
15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia					-	1
16 Diabetes					1	2
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system					33	29
18 Coronary disease, angina					15	11
19 Hypertension with heart disease					1	1
20 Other heart disease					16	26
21 Other circulatory disease					14	7
22 Influenza					5	8
23 Pneumonia					10	4
24 Bronchitis					16	7
25 Other disease of respiratory system					2	2
26 Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum					2	-
27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea					-	-
28 Nephritis and nephrosis					1	3
29 Hyperplasia of prostate					1	-
30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion					-	-
31 Congenital malformations					-	-
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases					25	37
33 Motor vehicle accidents					1	2
34 All other accidents					1	2
35 Suicide					4	-
36 Homicide and operations of war					-	-

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY FOR 1953.

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY FOR 1953.																			
		Annual Death Rate per 1,000 Population															Rate per each 1,000 Live Births		
Rate per 1,000 of Population.		Live Births	Still Births	All Causes	Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fever.	Meningococcal infec:	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Smallpox	Measles	Pneumonia	Acute Poliomyelitis (inc. polioencephalitis) Paralytic	Non-Paralytic	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia	Diarrhoea & Enteritis under 2 years.	Total deaths under 1 year.
England & Wales	15.5	22.4	11.4	0.01	0.03	1.39	3.58	0.01	0.14	0.00	12.36	0.84	0.07	0.04	0.24	18.23	1.1	26.8	
160 County Boroughs & Great Towns (including London)	17.0	24.8	12.2	0.01	0.04	1.50	3.72	0.01	0.14	0.00	11.27	0.92	0.06	0.03	0.25	22.33	1.3	30.8	
160 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000-50,000 & 1951 Census)	15.7	21.4	11.3	0.01	0.03	1.44	3.38	0.01	0.13	0.00	12.32	0.76	0.06	0.04	0.24	12.46	0.9	24.3	
London Administrative County	17.5	21.0	12.5	0.01	0.03	1.02	3.30	0.00	0.12	-	8.09	0.73	0.07	0.03	0.38	28.61	1.1	24.8	
Maidstone Rural District	15.86	7.24	14.44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.07	-	-	-	-	-	29.19	



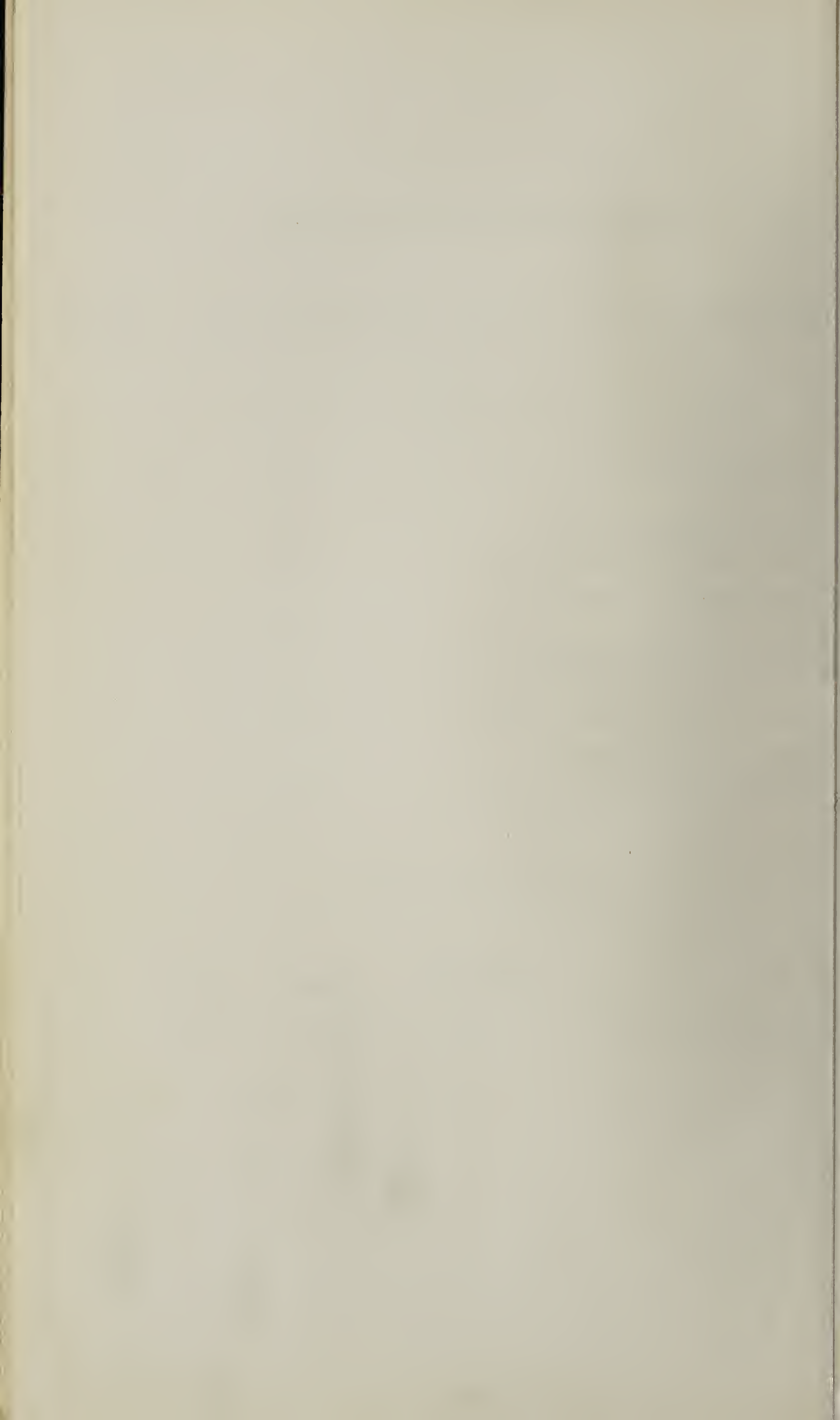
MATERNAL MORTALITY IN ENGLAND & WALES.

Intermediate List No. and cause.	No. of Deaths.	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live & Still) Births.	Rates per million women aged 15-44.
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A115	Sepsis of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium.	68	0.10	
	Abortion with toxaemia	7	0.01	1
A116	Other toxaemias of preg- nancy and the puerperium	166	0.24	
A117	Haemorrhage of pregnancy and childbirth.	90	0.13	
A118	Abortion without mention of sepsis or toxaemia.	30	0.04	3
A119	Abortion with sepsis.	39	0.06	4
A120	Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium.	125	0.18	

MAIDSTONE RURAL DISTRICT

	<u>Puerperal Infections.</u>	<u>Others.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Per 1,000 Total Births	Nil	Nil	Nil



G E N E R A L S U M M A R Y

Estimated Resident Population		18,300
Area (acres)		34,709
Persons per acre		0.526
Annual Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Crude 14.97	Corrected 15.86
Annual Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Crude 18.52	Corrected 14.44
Births - Male 155 Female - 119	Total ...	274
Deaths - Male 175 Female - 164	Total ...	339
Excess of Births over Deaths		65
Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death Rate	Pulmonary	.109
	Non Pulmonary	.16
Cancer Death Rate per 1,000 Population		2.34

